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BRIDES & GROOMS Pages 18-20

Health, Beauty & Fitness Pages 24-25

Local drummer's 40-hour Big Bash will boost charity

A Vale musician is taking on an unusual 40th birthday challenge – that of playing non-stop for 40 hours to raise cash for the international charity, Water Aid.

Starting at 8am tomorrow (Friday, April 17), Iolo Whelan, a professional drummer and drum tutor from St Hilary, will be playing drums and percussion non-stop for those 40 hours, to celebrate his 40th birthday.

He will be able to put down the drum sticks at midnight on Saturday (April 18).

He is a member of the Celtic roots band, Jamie Smith's Mabon, and has his own jazz quartet.

Because the chosen venue for the attempt has a limited capacity, it will be shown online as it happens at: *www.iolowhelan.com/bigbash*.

The build-up can be followed on Twitter @TheBigBash2015'

Iolo has called the event 'The Big Bash 2015' and it will not be one long drum solo!

He said: "I did a 24-hour non-stop drumming when I was 24, and coped quite well with that. However, I'm worried that the quality of my drumming might tail off as we get into that second day.

"I've spoken to other musicians who have tackled similar challenges and that was the problem they reported."

ABOVE: Iolo Whelan will be drumming non-stop for 40 hours – to raise funds for Water Aid!

Iolo told The GEM: "It promises to be a feast of music, with a jazz evening, open workshops, a mighty drum battle, acoustic sessions and live bands among the highlights.

"My pupils have been busy raising sponsorship as well, and will be joining me to drum up support.

"There will be plenty of events to enjoy on the webcast. I have been practising, but anything could happen on the day, and that'll be the fun of it – it's all live.

"Of course, the main purpose is to raise money for a great cause. WaterAid provides clean water for people who need it all over the world, and I'm proud to support their work".

The Big Bash 2015 will start at 8am on Friday, April 17, and continue until midnight on Saturday, April 18.

You can watch all the events at: www.iolowhelan.com/bigbash, and donate by texting 'BIGB75 £x' to 70070, with 'x' being the amount, eg. £1, £10, £100. Iolo's target is £4,000, and every donation helps. The running order for acts can be found on the above website.

PHILIP IRWIN

Vale compost plant could be replaced if council planners give the go-ahead

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Vale Council planning committee meets today (Thursday) to consider an application to build an anaerobic digestion facility that will replace the existing compost facility outside Cowbridge.

Although a number of conditions will be attached, council officers are recommending that the application, by Syrus Energy Ltd, to build at Penllyn Estate Farm, Llwynhelig, be granted.

The report to be considered by councillors on the planning committee says that the facility will be 300 metres from the A48, near to the existing composting site.

The two local councils, Penllyn and Cowbridge with Llanblethian, both had no objection to the building of the new facility, but both expressed concern over increased traffic bringing materials to the site.

However, the report says that the Vale Council's traffic engineer has analysed the submitted transport statement and it is considered that the proposal will have "negligible impact" on the local highway network.

Anaerobic digesters use large enclosed containers, and are regarded as being less prone to smells, although this has been disputed by some objectors to the proposal.

The report says that the Anaerobic Digester (AD) would generate 0.5MW, which would feed into the National Grid.

The process would use up to 20,000 tonnes of agricultural slurry and commercial food waste (10,000 tonnes slurry, with 2,000 tonnes from Penllyn Farm, and 10,000 tonnes of food waste) to produce biogas and digestate.

This is formed by using bacteria to break down the waste organic matter to produce the biogas, which would be used to produce electricity. The digestate could be used to form a natural fertilizer for the farm.

The report author makes it clear that the existing In Vessel Composting plant (IVC) should be phased out by making the statement: "*In light of the odour issues that have occurred due to the operation of the IVC plant, I advise that it should be conditioned that once the proposed AD is operational that the use of the IVC for the accepting and processing of food waste cease*".

The report author goes on to ask for a comprehensive Odour Management Plan (OMP), and also a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

A further requirement put in place by the planning officers is that a new entrance to the site, directly off the A48, should be put in place. The officers consider that the existing entrance, just off the A48 on a sharp bend, would be unsuitable to cope with the increased traffic.

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Readers' Letters

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WELSH IN THE GEM

AS some of my family now live in the lovely Vale, I make frequent visits.

I always like to read The GEM while I am there and find it to be an excellent newspaper.

During my last visit, I notice that you now have a few pages printed in the Welsh language, how delighted I was. I hope this will continue – indeed, it is in line with the gradual growth of the Welsh language in your area.

I was disappointed at some of the negative responses by some people and I suggest that they 'give it a go'.

They may find it easier than they thought to learn the language, improve their knowledge, and enhance the quality of their lives; indeed, some will be able to keep up with their grandchildren who go to Welsh medium schools.

Da Iawn chi y GEM. Daliwch ati a phob lwc.

Well done The GEM; carry on and good luck.

Emrys Hughes,
Clwyd.

'Not a level playing field'

LIKE Mr Jeff Evans in The GEM of April 9, I would like to thank you for publishing my letter in full and for explaining the reasons why you printed your 'wraparound' Conservative Party broadsheet on March 26.

However, I would like to reiterate that I do believe that is unfair electioneering for one party to gain an advantage over others simply because they can afford to do so.

As I said in my original letter, unfortunately, election campaigns are not now fought out democratically on a level playing field, when some parties have far more funds than others to finance such publicity.

Dr David Ellis,
Llantwit Major
Cardiff and Vale Liberal Democrats

Litter bin tip

I WONDER whether the public know that the policy of the Vale of Glamorgan Council is not to empty any litter bins (including dog poop) until a member of the public complains?

I recently found this out and phoned to complain about one bin in Porthkerry Park and one in St Athan. My complaint was dealt with efficiently and courteously, with a promise of prompt action.

I urge anyone who sees an overflowing bin to please phone in to notify the council.

J. Baggott, St Athan.

CHAOS IN THE UKRAINE

THE agitators on the Maidan in Kiev several months ago could hardly have foreseen the chaos their actions would bring to the Ukraine.

Not only has the Crimea gone and large tracts of eastern Ukraine, but at least 6,000 people are dead; one million displaced – cities, towns and villages wrecked.

The economy is in free-fall; the currency has lost two thirds of its value, and creditors are unwilling to bail it out. The biggest creditor is: Russia, with a £2 billion bond due for repayment by the end of 2015.

What do those protesters think now? What next? A failed European state of 4.2 million people. What of those western and Welsh politicians who praised the 'revolutionaries'?

Christopher Short,
Barry.

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'Housing is a problem for all of the Vale'

FURTHER to recent correspondence in The GEM about proposed developments in Cowbridge, I believe it is important to be clear about the issues that affect the Vale, and the town in particular.

Firstly, somebody has come up with a number of new houses that are required in the Vale: To date, nobody has been able to justify this number, or say on what it is based.

If it is an extrapolation based on existing statistics, it needs to be questioned seriously. After all, statistically, you are eight times more likely to be involved in an accident when driving under the limit than over.

This affects the whole Vale and beyond, not just Cowbridge and Barry. Other correspondents have drawn attention to employment, with most Vale residents working elsewhere.

There are at least two huge developments in the final stages of planning in Cardiff, one of which is on a brownfield site, using a site formerly occupied by heavy industry.

It makes much more sense to build homes near to places of employment, especially where there are scant transport links. Cowbridge, amongst other places, suffers from a creaking infrastructure, with a lack of parking facilities, traffic congestion and water and drainage systems operating near capacity.

Heavy rainfall causes flooding in Cowbridge and Llanblethian, and further developments along the lines of Darren Farm will only exacerbate this problem, in spite of the SUDS system proposed.

To some, Cowbridge is already in decline, with shops closing down and charity shops (three in the last three years) opening.

If further development is allowed, it will soon be national outlets, charity shops, estate agents and traffic jams, so all those who come to Cowbridge for the 'shopping experience' will go elsewhere, accelerating the decline.

Again, this process has already been seen elsewhere – in Bridgend, for example.

Finally, there has been a lot of talk of people having no say in such matters. It looks as if current plans before the Welsh Assembly for discussion may remove planning decisions on major developments from local authorities altogether. What price democracy?

Alec Trousdell,
Llanblethian

Abdication of leadership?

IN his letter on the EU (The GEM, April 9), Roger Bradshaw repeats the assertion that Britain's trade wouldn't suffer outside the EU.

According to the people who do the trade, this is simply not true and perhaps it would be wise to listen to them.

Moreover, trade is regulated by agreements and goods have to meet certain standards.

Of course, China would continue to sell us goods if Britain were outside the EU, but those goods would be made according to EU regulations.

China wouldn't bother negotiating new regulations with an independent Britain.

Equally, the EU negotiates standards for goods exported to China.

Outside the EU, British goods sold to China would still need to adhere to those EU standards and agreements. Inside the EU, Britain has a say over what those standards should be; outside the EU, we should have none.

If it really were the case that Britain would be better off outside the EU then Germany, a bigger exporter and a bigger contributor to the budget, would surely also be looking to withdraw.

As for uncontrolled immigration, according to a parliamentary answer in 2014, there were 2.3 million people from other EU countries living in Britain, which was balanced by 2.2 million Britons resident in Europe.

Denying the Romanian bricklayer entry to Britain, would mean denying large numbers of Britons their place in the sun.

Britain has always sought to influence what happens in Europe.

That is why the USA, for instance, hopes we shall remain in the EU.

If ever we did leave, we should be abdicating a policy of leadership and engagement in Europe that goes back over 200 years.

Peter Sain ley Berry,
Cowbridge.

'Council tax: 'where the blame lies'

IN a recent column in this newspaper, Coun Neil Moore sought to justify the council's decision to hike your council tax bill by 3.9 per cent this year.

In the article, he sought to portray the Westminster Government as responsible for the tax rise and also claimed that "no funding has ever been allocated to Welsh councils to enable them to freeze council tax".

This claim was, at best, misleading.

With common funding streams like health, education, or local government (which are all devolved), when extra spending occurs in England extra money gets passed on to the Welsh Government, proportionally.

When the UK Government opted to help English councils freeze council tax, for example, the Welsh Government received around £40 million to enable councils to do the same here.

Unfortunately, Welsh Labour has steadfastly refused to use that extra to freeze council tax here in Wales.

In reality, it is the Welsh Labour Government which has cut local council budgets, and it is the same Welsh Labour Government which – if it had seen sense and implemented a freeze in 2010 – would have by now saved the average Band D householder £201.

In contrast, take Dyfed Powys, where the Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner has cut the police precept by 5 per cent and maintained its reputation as the safest place in the UK to live.

Here in the Vale, meanwhile, residents not only face a council tax hike of 3.9 per cent, but Labour has also slapped a 5 per cent rise on your police precept.

The truth is that under Labour you get less, but pay more.

Andrew RT Davies,
Conservative AM, South Wales Central.

Parked vehicles an 'obstruction course' in town

THE urban landscape in Barry and the Vale is disfigured by parked motor vehicles – but as most of us own and drive cars, we can't complain. Or can we?

Threading one's way past parked cars and vans can be like tackling an obstacle course. But it needn't be like that.

Of 14 garages close to my house, seven are either not used or utilised as extra storage space. Consequently, there are extra vehicles parked at the roadside, on blind corners and taking up the entire pavement space.

What about the elderly, the disabled, blind people, and mums with babies in pushchairs?

What about the offence of obstruction? Neither the police nor the local authority have any intention of enforcing the law because they can't be bothered – or don't want to antagonise selfish motorists.

A blatant example of ignoring parking restrictions is in Barry Road near the Witchell public house. Some weeks ago, the highways department put down double yellow lines outside the busy sub-post office – but do drivers heed the restriction?

No, they still park on double yellows, knowing they won't be caught, as well as being too lazy to park elsewhere and walk 25 yards.

A month ago, I emailed the highways department asking how they justified this expense, while knowing the law cannot be enforced.

Predictably, there has been no response.

Derek Hooper,
Barry.

Language question

LAST February, Mr Alun Cairns gave a bold statement regarding the Welsh language; he said that the language should not be regulated, but rather used to ensure its existence.

I have yet to receive any communication (by post or/and phone) from him in Welsh. This has to be a worry. I do hope I, and other readers, get an answer.

Branwen Dafydd (aged 24),
Tair Onnen.

SHARE YOUR VIEWS!
We welcome readers' letters on local issues and other topics of interest. Send them to the address given elsewhere on this page.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL APRIL 23)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
16 Thur	05.02	9.2	17.31	9.3
17 Fri	05.57	9.8	18.24	9.9
18 Sat	06.49	10.3	19.11	10.4
19 Sun	07.35	10.7	19.58	10.5
20 Mon	08.20	10.6	20.38	10.4
21 Tues	08.59	10.3	21.19	10.1
22 Wed	09.44	9.9	21.59	9.6
23 Thur	10.24	9.4	22.39	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

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Aussie Sharon's search for family roots in Cowbridge

ON Thursday, April 9, Cowbridge History Society was host to a visitor from Australia.

Sharon Dillon from Melbourne is a descendant of a branch of the Homfray family, formerly ironmasters from the Merthyr Tydfil area, but who rebuilt the Penlline estate and its country house in the 1840s.

Sharon is trying to trace the links between her part of the family and the current family who live in Penlline Court. She hoped that the History Society might be able to shed some light on her family's origins; particularly puzzling for her was which of the Homfrays migrated to Australia and why?

Sharon believes she can trace a line back to the medieval origins of the Homfrays, but sadly the records in the Local History Study Room in Old Hall were able to add little to her search.

However, she was able to examine and copy many of the photos the society possesses of the Homfrays' life in the 1930s and '40s. Although it was not possible to visit Penlline Castle – it is the private home of the Cory family and not open to the public – Dick Buswell was able to show her around the village of Penlline and its church, both developed by her possible ancestors in the period after the 1840s.

Perhaps GEM readers may have further information that may help Sharon in her quest? She can be contacted on: *sharond73@bigpond.com*.

Sharon was visiting Cowbridge as part of a wider tour of Europe she was undertaking including visiting Dublin, Paris, Glasgow, Edinburgh and many parts of England.

Dick Buswell,
(Chair, Cowbridge History Society).

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Egg hunt

ON Sunday April 12, yet another fundraising event took place in Treoes, with Friends of Saron organising an Easter egg hunt, which took children from one end of the village to the other.

Then it was into the Saron Chapel where every child received a chocolate egg. The vestry became the venue for a welcome cup of tea or coffee with a lovely selection of homemade cakes.

It proved what can be achieved when everyone puts a little effort into a local event.

The next service at Saron will take place on Sunday, April 19 at 3pm, with officiating cleric Rev Trevor Harry. Everyone will receive a warm welcome.

Beautification!

THE recently-held pamper evening organised by local resident Michelle Hopkins, in the Treoes Community Hall two weeks ago, was an outstanding success.

Speaking to a few ladies who took part, they were all in agreement that it was a most enjoyable event; £60 was raised through the raffle and tombola, which will be donated to Saron Chapel.

Litter campaign

ON Sunday, April 12, members of Treoes litter campaign joined forces to undertake a litter pick along the lanes coming into the village, and 20 bags of rubbish were collected.

The members would like to thank Tim Wort, the Vale representative for Keep Wales Tidy, for his support in providing litter pickers, gloves and bags.

Look out for the Treoes litter campaign (TLC) Facebook page.

Unfortunately, much of the rubbish thrown out of cars is not from the local village residents but by motorists passing through to reach the A48.

They do not contemplate the problems caused to animals. If any local resident witnesses this, try to make a note of the vehicle number plate and report it to the appropriate authority.

St Canna's, Llangan

ON Saturday morning, April 25, there will be the annual coffee morning at 10am.

As in previous years, there will be an abundance of super homemade cakes, the ever popular raffle for those lucky enough to win the lovely prizes, and of course, the welcome cup of tea or coffee!

There are also areas for the children to play. Please support this event as so much work and enthusiasm goes into making it a success.

PENDOYLAN SCHOOL BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO JEANETTE

LEFT: Pupils, staff and governors were all there to wish Mrs Jeanette Llewellyn (with floral bouquet) a happy retirement after her 24 years at Pendoylan School.

After 24 years of dedicated service, staff at Pendoylan Primary School were saddened to see their fantastic cleaner, Mrs Jeanette Llewellyn, retire at Easter.

In her honour, the school held a special 'goodbye' assembly with songs, poems and memories to commemorate her superb contribution to the school and the Pendoylan community.

Pendoylan School's headteacher, Mrs Lyn Murray, commented: "Mrs Llewellyn was a committed, caring member of staff who had time for everyone. The children loved her beaming smile and helpfulness and we will all miss her dearly."

Mrs Llewellyn said: "I'm so grateful to the school for everything; seeing so many children grow up and blossom has especially been a privilege.

"I want to thank all the staff, the Friends of the school and parents for helping to make my time at Pendoylan so wonderful".

Egg hunt cracked!

RECENT Easter egg hunt held at Curves Cowbridge, raised £60 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

A massive thank you to all the lady members who shelled out; the winner who scrambled the code was Christine Beadsworth!

Special mention goes to the Co-operative in Cowbridge, for donating some of the prizes.

Many thanks.

Curves, Cowbridge.

SENIOR CITIZENS' NEXT MEETING

THE next meeting of the Senior Citizens will be at the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Cowbridge, on Thursday, April 16 at 2pm.

We would be grateful if all members and friends could attend, as we have important decisions to discuss and confirm.Thank you for your support.

Mavis Ashford (chairman)

Performers lined up for the Victorian Fayre...

WITH just two months to go until the Victorian Fayre, the Llantwit Events Committee is pleased to announce that all the stage performers have been booked.

There will be a full day of entertainment on Saturday, June 20 starting at 10.15am, and continuing until at least 4pm.

Performers include: three primary school choirs – Dewi Sant, Llanilltud Fawr and Llanfair; Stage Door 1 – a local youth theatre group; the Wednesday Warblers – an all-female choir; St Donats Chorale Choir; Autumn Sounds – a mature entertainment group and four local acoustic singer-songwriters – Tom Colgan, currently in year-10 at Llantwit Comp, Aled Hughes, a Welsh singer-songwriter from Cardiff and Jake O'Keeffe and Lydia Richardson, aka Double or Nothing, an acoustic folk-soft rock duo.

The stage will be in the Town Hall car park along with a variety of local charity, craft and food stalls. It promises to be a full day of entertainment.

AJ

SURGERY ADVICE IN COWBRIDGE

Eluned Parrott, Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales Central, will be holding an advice surgery at the Community College, Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge (CF71 7AH) on Friday, April 17, from 10am to midday.

Residents who have any issues of concern to them or their local community that they wish to discuss with Eluned are asked to book an appointment by calling 02920 462326.

WHAT'S ON AT COWBRIDGE BIG SCREEN?

BIG SCREEN'S next film for this season is *Mr Turner* (Cert 12A) on Thursday, April 23, at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

This acclaimed film, directed by Mike Leigh, stars Timothy Spall as Britain's finest painter JMW Turner. It charts part of his rather eccentric life in the early 19th century as he agonises over his painting technique.

His personal relations, especially with women and his fellow artists, are not easy but he finds some contentment with his landlady Hannah Danby (Dorothy Atkinson). Visually outstanding, this brilliantly acted and directed film, many thought, deserved an Oscar and a Bafta.

Doors open 7pm. Tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's, office, or on the door).

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WITH JUST THREE MONTHS TO GO...

Generous businesses give Jack's sporting dream a vital boost

by TIM CHAPMAN

ABOVE: Jack Cafaro's dream of representing Wales is still alive thanks to the generosity of the local business community.

A young sportsman's dreams of representing Wales at the Fencing Commonwealth Games in July have received a huge boost thanks to local businesses.

In March, The GEM reported that Jack Cafaro (16) from St Athan was hoping to make the trip to South Africa as part of the Welsh fencing team – the only problem was the £2,600 cost of the trip.

At the time his grandmother Sue explained: "It's the opportunity of a lifetime for Jack. He's been selected for Wales by getting the required competition points and having commitment and dedication."

The family were desperate not to see Jack's hopes shattered, and following the article in The GEM, Sue armed herself with a copy on a trip to Llandow Trading Estate.

Sue said: "I went round knocking on doors for a couple of hours and the garages were very good – donating figures of between £25 and £50 here and there. Topstak donated £300. I want to thank them and all the business people on the estate."

In total, Sue raised £600, and last weekend the family received some thrilling news.

"The Bryn Illtyd Trust has awarded Jack £600!"

It means just £1,400 is now needed to cover the costs of the trip.

Sue added: "Nisa supermarket will allow Jack to grocery pack on May 9 in Llantwit. We've also got a 'bag pack' planned at Tesco on the Port Road in Barry on July 4, just a few days before he leaves for South Africa."

The family will also be doing a car boot sale in Sully.

Jack, who attends St Richard Gwyn High School in Barry, said: "My ultimate ambition is to represent Wales at the Olympics, possibly in Tokyo in 2020."

He joined Llantwit Major Fencing Club at the age of 11 and is being coached by Dr Gordon Kingston.

"I saw a story in The GEM featuring another local fencer, James Harrington who got to the Commonwealth Games. I met him and Gordon and wanted to get involved.

"I started with the 'foil' because because it improves your footwork."

Now, Jack competes in épée, in which strikes can be made against all parts of the body and are recorded electronically.

"Fights are a mixture of the mental and physical. Older fencers might not have the reaction speed, but are able to keep their distance and use their mind. Younger fighters might not be as astute, but use their speed."

Fighters progress in tournaments after round-robin contests.

The Fencing Commonwealth Games take place in Cape Town from July 11-17.

If you can help Jack achieve his dream by providing some funding, please contact Sue at: *suejones125@gmail.com*.

From rock choirs to Basil and Sybil...

COWBRIDGE MAYOR'S DIARY by Coun Peter Knapp

THE last paragraph of my last note was an invitation to join me in the town hall for an evening with Rock Choir, and I am happy to say that our audience numbered over 100.

It was a wonderful evening with this amazing community choir, together with two soloists, saxophonist Sarah Maurice and the talented young singer from Cowbridge, Verity-Belle Atkinson who, I was happy to announce on the evening, has been offered a place at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

CONTRAST

I spent a very different afternoon when I attended a meeting addressed by a Welsh Government civil servant to consider the effect on town and community councils of the proposed changes to local government in Wales. Although we do not yet know the final shape of the re-organisation, nor how it will impact on the Vale Council, one thing is certain, there will be change.

Whatever the structure of the new authority, the importance of your town council in providing a voice for this community cannot be over-stated and you may be sure that the council is contributing fully to the consultation process, and is determined that the interests of Cowbridge, Llanblethian and Aberthin are understood and heard.

FINAL EVENT

Remarkably, the end of my year in office is now only a matter of weeks away, but we have one last major fundraising event planned. We shall be hosting a dinner at the Bear Hotel on April 25 with the entertainment being provided by the Mr Moose Theatre Company, who have sold out at Everyman Open Air Theatre in the past.

They will be offering a live performance of an episode of Fawlty Towers and I can promise you a great evening.

More information and tickets are available from the town clerk's office. Don't delay, tickets are selling fast.

PETER KNAPP,
Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian

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NEWS IN BRIEF...NEWS IN BRIEF...

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National Gardens scheme restarts

THE National Gardens Scheme supports garden owners to open their personal and private gardens for various caring charities.

First to open is Slade garden in Southerndown, where Heritage Coast wardens will give guided tours of adjacent Dunraven Gardens with slide shows every hour from 2pm.

Opening information: Saturday April 25, Sunday April 26 (2pm - 5pm). Admission £4, children free. Home-made teas.

Pastels demo for art society

ON Thursday, April 23, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Abergavenny artist Jantien Powell who will give a demonstration using pastels.

Jantien is an accomplished artist and experienced tutor who always gives a very fascinating and informative demonstration, and who is well worth seeing. (see www.chapelcottagestudio.co.uk)

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm – 9 pm. and visitors and new members are welcome. Contact the society on www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Looking forward to celebrations

THE annual meeting at Boverton WI opened by welcoming Kath Metham from the Glamorgan Federation.

The president gave a summary of the many activities held during the past year – in particular, the very successful murder mystery night held in partnership with Rhoose WI.

Members from both WIs thoroughly enjoyed the evening. She said that the forthcoming WI centenary year and the fact that Boverton was the host in the Heritage Link Group would prove to be even busier than last year.

She thanked all the committee members for their hard work over the year, in particular Coleen Toombs for making the new branch banner.

Thanks were given to a number of individual members for giving their time and help in a variety of ways.

Finally, all members were thanked for their friendship and participation in what is a thriving WI.

Comprehensive reports were then given by the treasurer and the secretary. The independent financial examiner had praised the excellence of the branch's accounts which were then agreed by members.

The secretary confirmed that the sale of Easter knitted chicks and bunnies had raised £60 for Velindre Hospital and the knit and natter group had donated £105 to Maggie's charity.

Members then voted in favour of the 2015 conference resolution regarding inequalities in the continuing care system, which the president would take to national conference in the Royal Albert Hall.

Kath Mepham addressed the meeting commending the branch on the past successful year with its varied programme of events and speakers.

The annual meeting concluded with the re-election of Joan Davies as president for the forthcoming year.

The next meeting will be a Link event at 7.30pm on April 23 with the usual monthly meeting on May 14. All are welcome. **HM**

Vale Bridge Club results

THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for April 13 are: First, Phil Felman and Tony Disley, 68.51 per cent; second, Dennis Smith and Helen Barrie, 60.39; third, Kevin Maddox and Mike Best, 58.77.

Carer Kelly's taking on a marathon challenge for brain disease cause

...BUT FOUR MONTHS AGO, COULD BARELY RUN 5km!

A WOMAN from Nottage, Porthcawl, will be supporting a brain disease charity when she takes on the London Marathon in a few weeks.

Kelly Carr (35), started her training in December 2014 when she could barely run 5km. Now, four months on, Kelly has come on in leaps and bounds and runs 25km weekly to prepare herself for Britain's most famous marathon.

Kelly, a full-time carer was inspired to run the marathon after completing a front-facing abseil in Bolivia last year.

"I decided I needed another challenge and what better way to challenge myself than to run the London Marathon?

"I had such a great response and amazing support from my friends and family, so I thought I'd try something a little different this year," said Kelly.

Just like her abseil, Kelly will be running the Virgin Money London Marathon to raise money and awareness for the little known neurological condition Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) after her mother Yvonne Williams (69), was diagnosed with the condition in 2013.

PSP is a neurological condition which is caused by the progressive death of nerve cells in the brain. Over time, people diagnosed with PSP are robbed of the ability to walk, talk, feed themselves and communicate effectively.

The average life expectancy from the onset of symptoms is seven years.

Kelly, who trains in between caring for her mum full-time said: "Abseiling is very different to running but I chose this challenge because I wanted to show people how PSP severely affects people's mobility.

"No doubt I will find it difficult to walk after the marathon due to the exertion on my legs, but that will return. People with PSP aren't able to get back their ability to walk or run, the condition takes that away from them," she added.

Kelly, will be showing her support for the PSP Association (PSPA), the only national charity which supports people with PSP, by running her marathon with a frayed lace. The lace is part of PSPA's campaign 'Ed's lace' which aims to illustrate the progressive nature of PSP.

"I'm making sure I've got all bases covered in regards to awareness raising. PSP is a relatively unheard of and anything I can do to try and raise awareness I will."

Kelly has almost reached her fundraising goal of £1,500 having already raised over £1,150.

If you would like to support Kelly, you can do so by donating at http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/KellyCarr.

ABOVE: Kelly and Yvonne.

Our 'unruly behaviour was happy chattering'

WE would like to respond to a letter in last week's GEM entitled 'Journey spoilt by unruly behaviour' and to clarify a few facts.

As the parents of the seven children, we find it shocking that happy, polite, inoffensive chatter and laughter is perceived as 'unruly behaviour'.

The negative comments made by a couple on the bus regarding our party were easily heard over the children's voices, which would have been difficult had they been behaving in a raucous manner. (A fellow passenger actually mentioned how lovely it was to hear happy chattering in Welsh.)

How disappointing that the 'lady and gentleman' only find the courage to communicate behind an anonymous letter and not through a polite exchange of conversation, which would have been welcomed with respect, despite the triviality of the subject matter.

The lack of social skills was further proven when the couple left the bus and the lady, who was unable to control her disgruntlement, knocked into one of the children who was reaching for the bell.

The young child lost her footing due to this contact, yet despite this unpleasant exchange, no apology or eye contact was made.

Cardiff Bus Company stipulate in their terms and conditions that customers will be asked to leave the bus if they behave in a manner which will distract the driver in any way from his/her normal duties as part of their health and safety policy.

At no point did the driver speak to any of the party concerned or express his concern. We suspect that the driver concerned has dealt with more threatening and anti-social behaviour than a group of young children discussing their shared experience at the theatre.

(Names and addresses supplied).

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY...

Beekeeping season is under way, now we wait for highs and lows!

HOW nice to have some dry and sunny days. The rising temperatures have certainly got the bees moving. I have five colonies at present and not all of them have had an in-depth inspection yet.

One colony in particular has had attention paid to it – this is a hive that was collected in the winter of last year (2014) from a person who was moving to Scotland and could not take the bees along.

With the onset of the warmer conditions, bees were observed flying around this hive and gaining access by way of a gap at the rear under the roof.

This hive format is described as a 'traditional' and in appearance it resembles a WBC hive but it is definitely smaller; anyway the bees were not using the front entrance, which aroused my suspicions. On one of the fine days I lifted off the roof so that I might gain an insight to the possible cause for the bees' behaviour.

Being a similar hive to the WBC, it has outer lifts that provide extra protection for the hive within, to say the least all was not well; I could see three boxes made up this hive, but the topmost box was misaligned and a gap caused by this misalignment gave the bees the access they required.

On lifting out a couple of frames, I could see lots of things that were not right and the need to transfer these bees to a better home as soon as conditions were favourable was a must.

The favourable conditions arrived with the onset of our current warm dry days, so Barbara Chick and I set about the transfer of the bees into a National hive. There were a lot of bees to move and plenty of pollen-bearing bees were observed.

All of the outer covers were removed and the topmost box that was crammed with bees was removed and covered over so that we could attend to the rest of the colony. The two remaining boxes were separated with a queen excluder (this is a slotted metal sheet that stops the queen using the rest of the hive) and it had probably been inserted when the hive was first assembled.

The uppermost of these two boxes had no frames in it at all and the bees had filled it with comb – all of this had to be cut free and put to one side – the lower box was a mixture of different frame types and to free them took some effort.

At no time did we see the queen, but the demeanour of the bees, plus other signs, suggest that there is a queen in residence.

The colony is now established in a National hive and looks settled; the mesh floor will provide an opportunity to carry out a Varroa mite check and at the next inspection we may observe a queen or view eggs, larvae and sealed brood, proving that she is indeed present.

There is yet one more colony on site that requires some attention; it is a swarm from last summer that built their home onto a tree branch and were fully exposed to the elements, collecting it and housing it was not a simple task but that is another story.

Our beekeeping season is now under way and what will it present in the way of highs or lows: swarming will certainly be a factor to contend with, and what weather will we get?

HAROLD WILLIAMS

Find us on Facebook - facebook.com/GlamorganGEM

Following teenager's car accident in Australia...

The community rallies round to get Sam home

THE Barry community is responding to an appeal to help a local teenager who had a serious car accident in Australia.

Samuel Corria (18) a former pupil at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, was on a gap year when he was involved in the incident and had to be airlifted to hospital.

He remains in hospital with his mother Sarah at his side.

An appeal page has been set up online entitled 'Help get Sam home' at *www.gofundme.com/rrx8rn4c*.

On the page, the family say:

"Sam was critical but has since come around. Unfortunately, he has broken a vertebrae in his spine that has affected his neck and left arm. He has had to have part of his skull removed to relieve pressure on his brain (which will be put back when the swelling goes down).

"He is very lucky to be alive due to the severity of the accident. They have said he is lucky, as 80 per cent of people don't make it, or are left severely paralysed.

"He is on the road to recovery, but needs a lot of rehab and help with his co-ordination due to the damage on his brain, resulting in epilepsy. Thankfully he is alive, and we are grateful for that.

"The reason for this page is to ask for help to raise the necessary funds to get him home. We would be forever grateful for any support."

Paul Adamson of the Vale charity The Jam Fund said it would step in to help with the costs of return travel for Sam.

"Sam is friendly with my own son Sam who has himself just returned from a nine month trip to Australia.

"I noticed Sam's mum had flown out to be at his bedside as he had undergone brain surgery following a car crash.

"The cost of flying him home will be significant and they had set up a fundraising page to get him home – his travel insurance had expired.

"The cost was £4,000 I believe, and after 21hours £1,920 was raised. The Jam Fund is in contact with Sam's aunt and we will donate the remainder to allow his flight home."

Sam also needs funds to pay for treatment so if you would like to make a donation go to: www.gofundme.com/rrx8rn4c.

Rathbone Cymru opens next chapter in Corey's career

RIGHT: Karla Poveda, tutor for Rathbone Cymru with Corey Harrison.

A YOUNG Vale dad has had support from a youth training charity – to balance his efforts to find work with his responsibilities as a parent.

Corey Harrison (18) came to Rathbone Cymru in 2014 seeking help to fulfil his ambitions of working in retail.

Corey started a retail NVQ and was supported into a placement with Halfords, but difficulties at home and becoming a young dad meant he found progressing on the course difficult so Rathbone helped him to find him a new placement nearer to his home with WH Smith.

"We worked with Corey to overcome the barriers affecting his learning and found a new placement that better suited his needs," said Karla Poveda, NVQ assessor for Rathbone Cymru.

Corey, who lives in Barry, grew in confidence and with support from Karla and Rathbone Cymru's retail tutor Faisal Malik his commitment to his learning went from strength to strength enabling him to complete his NVQ and gain employment with WH Smith through Jobs Growth Wales.

"With full support from Karla and Faisal, Rathbone Cymru has helped me as a young parent to gain the retail skills I needed to gain employment. I love my job and I am thrilled to have passed my qualification," said Corey.

Rathbone is a national youth charity, which provided education and training support to almost 11,000 young people aged 14 to 24 across the UK last year.

"Corey has worked extremely hard to develop his employability skills and experience and we wish him all the best for the future," said Faisal Malik.

More information on Rathbone is available online at www.rathboneuk.org

Pensioners put on their bonnets

THE Llantwit Major Pensioners Club enjoyed an early taste of Easter with hot cross buns at the beginning of the Easter Bonnet competition, with 10 entrants and hats of a very high quality.

Everyone who entered received an Easter Egg and then we had entertainment from Amy Britton and her singers before breaking up for Easter.

A group took a holiday to Torquay for five days, which was a very sociable and an enjoyable five days with visits to Dartmouth, Babbacombe and a boat trip. We have now returned to start our meetings once again and looking forward to our day trips, one to Swansea on April 28 (cost £11.50).

The next trip planned is on June 23, and not June 9 as previously stated to Brecon.

The cost, including the canal barge, is £18.50 which can be paid on any club night (Tuesday) 6.30pm.

On club nights we hope to have a varied entertainments programme lined up for your enjoyment.

Why not come and join us at Llantonian Hall. Llantwit Major?

PG

Friends go off on a trip to Abergavenny!

THE FRIENDSand Neighbours enjoyed a wonderful day on their spring outing to Abergavenny, where 40 members enjoyed shopping, visiting the Tuesday market and buying bargains.

Many took the opportunity to visit the local church, St Mary's Priory, described as the 'Westminster Abbey of Wales' and viewed the collection of historic monuments and medieval carvings.

They visited the tithe barn where the Abergavenny Tapestry is displayed, which took a dedicated team of 60 ladies almost four years to complete and is some 24 feet wide.

Contact 01446 400044 for further information about the group.

TREASURE TROVE WAS DONATED TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES

THE DAVIES SISTERS AND A 'LOVE OF BEAUTY EXPRESSED THROUGH MEDIUM OF ART'

by EDWARD JENKINS

ON March 17, Dinas Powys Probus Club's guest speaker was the famous broadcaster, journalist and author Trevor Fishlock, whose subject was the Davies sisters of Llandinam, entitled 'Ahead of their Time'.

Gwendoline and Margaret Davies were the granddaughters of David Davies, an immensely wealthy entrepreneur, who started from nothing, and became Wales' first millionaire. He founded Barry Docks in the late 1880s to export the coal from his own mines in the Rhondda.

David Davies was born on a farm and uneducated. He started life as a sawyer delivering his services 'on time' and 'on budget'.

He was responsible for building the first iron bridge over the River Severn at Llandinam in the 1850s – still standing today – before he started building railway lines. Between 1855 and 1867 he built six different lines throughout Wales.

In 1864, he invested in his first coal mine in the Rhondda, which is when he started to become seriously rich, establishing the family fortune for future generations, without, of course, knowing how this wealth would be used.

Having given a brief background of David Davies's life, Trevor Fishlock turned to the arts, and two paintings that featured in the Davies family story.

'IMPRESSIONIST'

The first was a portrait of David Davies, commissioned by his grateful shareholders in 1874, painted by Ford Madox Brown, and the second painting of 'La Parisienne', otherwise known as The Lady in Blue, by Pierre-August Renoir, also painted in 1874.

The 1874 Paris Exhibition attracted a huge number of artists expressing their definitive styles – Renoir, Manet, Cezanne, Degas, Pissarro, Van Goch, Morisot and Monet.

These were all 'new' painters, working against the academic convention of painting in a traditional style.

The new artists were frozen out by the old school, which caused them to create their own exhibition in April 1874. A painting by Monet, of a misty harbour at Le Havre was called 'Impression: Sunrise', which after some critical, and more importantly acclaimed reviews, led to the term, still in use today, of 'Impressionist'.

'La Parisienne' unfolded a further coincidence between art and the coal fortune. A young budding scientist, William Brown, was experimenting to try and create a medicine, artificial quinine, to fight malaria.

In so doing, by reducing coal to coal tar, he was left with a purple dye which kept its brilliance and did not fade. He invented the word mauve. This in turn led to the development of further colours, from which the striking blue of the dress in 'La Parisienne' was probably derived.

Brown's experiments led him to create many colours which overturned the traditional vegetable dyes used for centuries and made him extremely rich.

Gwendoline and Margaret's mother died when they were three and five, and their father seven years later married his late wife's sister, and employed a governess for the girls, Miss Jane Blake.

Miss Blake's influence in teaching French, French art and broader aspects of European culture was complementary to their step-mother's desire for them to travel, and have a prolonged study of these subjects coupled with European history and architecture.

In all of this, the considerable influence of Calvanistic Methodism prevailed, following their grandfather's extensive philanthropic and charitable generosity, alongside building innumerable chapels around Wales. Having their maternal grandfather as a Methodist minister, the sisters were 'children of the Manse' in every sense.

They lived an extremely privileged life, but with the overriding social conscience of the church, and exemplary humility, they had an extraordinarily public spirited outlook. They were very aware of how the family wealth had been created – they felt indebted, but not guilty.

The sisters' own wealth did not fall into their hands until they were both 25, in 1907 and 1909. Leading up to this time, with the broadening of their cultural education, they had fallen in love with art, eventually 'marrying' their passion.

Between 1908 and 1913 they purchased some 100 paintings, spending in excess of £100,000 during that period, equivalent to at least £10 million today.

However, if you look at Renoir's 'La Parisienne' – that single painting could attract at least that amount at auction today, if it were to be sold. The Davies sisters spent very wisely!

They were not driven by investment. It was love of beauty as expressed through art, and their desire to share this beauty with the world around them.

They lent a considerable number of pictures to the National Museum of Wales exhibition at Cardiff City Hall in 1913, the year that they purchased the Renoir 'La Parisienne', creating the link with Madox Brown's painting of their grandfather, and both pictures are now at the National Museum.

The exhibition was a resounding success, introducing Impressionist paintings to Wales for the first time, with some 26,000 visitors over eight weeks.

In 1912, they had purchased the bronze cast of Rodin's 'The Kiss', which was the centrepiece of the exhibition.

Surprisingly, for nonconformist-influenced Wales, the sensuous, embracing lovers did not shock or surprise whereas in Lewes in the same year, the marble version was shrouded with cloth, as the authorities feared that such an embrace would offend! The Cardiff exhibition was acclaimed by an arts publication as one of the most important ever staged outside London.

The start of the Great War curtailed their investment activities; instead, both sisters served in the war. In 1916, Gwendoline volunteered to join the French Red Cross, and Margaret joined her in 1917.

They were based 100 miles outside Paris, at Verdun, a major crossroads of activities serving the front line. Their working conditions were a world away from what they were used to, but both were keen to play their part in alleviating the suffering, as far as they were able.

Their return to post war Wales, saw their acquisitions proceeding, purchasing a further 100 art works between 1918 and 1927, when the economic decline hit the coal mining communities hardest.

Most of the paintings were on display at their family home in Gregynog, which they shared with the wider community, hosting festivals, concerts, educational talks, with very eminent contributors from all over Britain, and from abroad.

BEQUEATHED

Eventually, Gregynog was given to the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, (which the family had supported in its creation) together with a substantial endowment for its ongoing use.

Gwendoline died in 1951, and Margaret in 1966. Between them they bequeathed 260 paintings and artefacts to the National Museum of Wales, transforming their collections for all time.

The Davies sisters were 'ahead of their time' in so many ways. Their lives had an enormous impact on their local community, the broader community in religion, education and the arts, coupled with the most extraordinary generosity through their philanthropy which impacted on so many, many lives.

NEWS ROUND-UP from the Penarth & District Ramblers

Walking in the (*running*) steps of Guto Nyth Bran

ON Easter weekend, when spring almost turned into summer, Penarth and District Ramblers enjoyed two walks in areas still bearing the scars of the past industrial heritage of south Wales.

Barrie was joined by a group of eight at Abercynon where hillsides are dotted with disused coal tips and making their way through St Gwynno Forest past the beautiful waterfall at Pistyll Goleu, they arrived at Llanwonno where the church is dedicated to the 6th century St Gwynno.

They paid a visit to the grave of Griffith Morgan, better known as Guto Nyth Bran, nicknamed after his parents' farm where he was a shepherd, and born in 1700. Legend has it he was so fleet-footed he could outrun horses and catch birds.

He ran his final race in 1737, a distance of 12 miles in 53 minutes after which he collapsed and died and every year the Nos Galan race pays tribute to his memory.

The flat-topped Tylorstown Tip standing at 1453 feet, made a perfect spot for their lunch break in warm sunshine with its extensive views to the Carmarthen Fans, Brecon Beacons and villages situated through the valley below.

Then, following forestry tracks to Mynachdy where drift mining took place, they wandered on to Ynysybwl once home to the Lady Windsor Colliery for a short refreshment break to gain the energy for their last stiff climb leading back to Abercynon.

On Easter Sunday, in equally glorious sunshine seven walkers joined Joy at Cefn-coed-y-cymmer to sample the delights of the pretty Taff Fechan valley, and joining part of the long distance Taff Trail and descending, they followed the pretty riverbanks underneath the Pontsarn viaduct that in its heyday carried 21 trains a day to eventually reach Vaynor.

Pausing to view both the ancient and more modern church dedicated to St Gwynno and the huge lump of rock covering the grave of local ironmaster Robert Thompson Crawshay who funded the church, they carried on through farming land to part of the Taff Fechan Forest.

Pausing for lunch beside the glorious Pontsticill reservoir, built to supply water to Merthyr Tydfil, with its array of sailing boats before continuing parallel with the railway line carrying the Brecon Mountain Railway steam trains, they re-joined the Taff Trail following the old disused Brecon to Merthyr railway track beneath the disused Morlais quarries, back to the stone bridge above the Blue Pool.

Then joining the track on the eastern side of the Taff Fechan river, they meandered their way downstream before crossing a footbridge and climbing back up to their start.

On April 18, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10-mile hard walk to Fan Brycheiniog from the north; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

On April 19, meet at 7.15am at Cogan for a trip to view the Severn Bore and a flat six-mile easy walk to Gloucester dock by riverbank and canal; contact Jan/John on 01446 418514.

To follow the group log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 02920 25 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

How you can rally to Marie Curie

Have a Blooming Great Tea Party for charity!

MARIE CURIE is here for people living with any terminal illness, and for their families. We offer expert care, guidance and support to help people make the most of their time.

As a Marie Curie nurse, I see first-hand how vital this hands-on care and emotional support is. This is why I'm asking people to host or attend a Blooming Great Tea Party between June 20 and 29.

Last year across the UK the Blooming Great Tea Party for Marie Curie raised £667,000, which pays for 33,350 hours of vital nursing care. With your support we can do more for more of the people who need us.

You can sign up to host your Blooming Great Tea Party at **www.mariecurie.org.uk/teatime** and also download useful material like posters, bunting and a fundraising booklet. You can also contact the West Wales fundraising office on 01554 759071 or *westwalesfundraising@mariecurie.org.uk* for advice.

Please do share your event details, photos or get involved on social media using #BloomingGreat. Thank you for your support, ***Helen Davies, Regional Manager of the Nursing Service in Wales.***

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www.promeclandrover.co.uk

Music project extends Llantwit opening hours

MAJOR MUSIC (now under new management by YMCA Barry) is extending music workshops to a Thursday evening.

The studio at Llantwit Youth Centre will be open for any young person between the ages of 11 and 24, to rehearse, record and make music. Entrance to the studio will be £1.

Major Music will still continue its main workshop on a Tuesday evening, but due to the demand will now be opening up on a Thursday evening from 6.30pm until 9pm.

Major Music is entering a new phase in its long history. Phil Kirkham and Dave Roberts founded the music charity over 10 years ago, and without their commitment and support, there would be no music facility for young people in Llantwit Major. It is testament to their hard work and the support of volunteers that Major Music is now one of the most exciting music projects for young people in the Vale.

YMCA Barry will now be taking over the project and with the support of Anthea Clements, YMCA chief executive and her team, aims to build on the success of the project, targeting young people across the Vale.

Anthea said: "The founding members, committee members and volunteers have worked tirelessly over the last 10 years plus to make Major Music a sustainable music project for young people to access.

"Major Music would not have gone from strength to strength and be in the position it is today without their support. A big thank you to all those involved in helping and supporting the young musicians of Llantwit and the Vale."

Farmers are to quiz the candidates

NFU Cymru is urging its members in Glamorgan to attend a hustings meeting with prospective MPs from the main political parties for the constituency, ahead of the general election on May 7.

Starting at 7pm on Thursday, April 27 at Burdons Farm, Wenvoe, local farmers will have an opportunity to quiz the prospective MPs on their party's rural and agricultural policies.

Glamorgan NFU Cymru county chairman Abi Reader said: "While the majority of farming issues are now determined by devolved Government, there are still some important aspects determined by Westminster.

"With a general election due and the possibility that we could be facing a very different political landscape, the prospective candidates now have the opportunity to set out their stall and justify why they are the best candidate.

"We are very grateful to Robert Reader for hosting the event on his farm. The meeting is open to all members and I hope to see a good turnout of farmers

"So please encourage your friends and neighbours to come along, as it gives our members the opportunity to test the awareness among the candidates of the main issues affecting our agricultural industry."

WHAT'S ON / News in brief

Stairlifts advice

AGE CONNECTS Cardiff and Vale are holding an informal advice session at The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, April 21 (10am – 12pm) concerning stairlifts, home adaptations and mobility aids.

For further information, contact 01446 732385.

Penarth coffee

A COFFEE morning will be held in the All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on Saturday, April 18 at 10am – 12 noon. Entry £1 (to include coffee/tea). All proceeds in aid of Parkinson's Cymru. Plenty of bargains for all!

Jumble sale

A JUMBLE sale is being held by 1st Dinas Powys Scout group on Saturday, April 25, at 1.30pm at the Scout hut, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys. Admission 50p.

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Future looking good for the Vale

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Finance)

THERE were many positive signs of progress and development for Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan over the Easter period – with good weather and crowds of enthusiastic visitors arriving by train, bus, foot and car.

The words I heard were 'vibrant' and 'brilliant' from passersby on Barry Island, while visitors also made their way to other parts of the Vale including the Wales Coast Path, Valeways walks and our beautiful rural towns and villages.

Dyffryn Gardens was a popular destination – with the National Trust enjoying a boost in visitors and a great turnout for the VOGA (Vale of Glamorgan Artists) exhibition which I officially opened on Saturday, April 11 – well worth a visit until the end of May. The progress being made in restoring the house is remarkable.

Of course, the sun brings the visitors and it brings traffic, too – but new access arrangements to Barry Island were put into place as well as the park and ride – with the new road emerging for all to see.

The opening of the Waterfront ASDA took place on Monday, April 13, with 240 new jobs created for local people.

I met many of them at the official opening, with local hero Brenda Rees doing the honours of cutting the ribbon before the crowds came into the store.

Brenda has been fostering children for 44 years and is one of the most inspiring people I have ever met, making such a difference to the lives of children, young people and their families.

The new ASDA jobs will make a difference to people's lives as will the next phase of the Welsh Government's Jobs Growth Wales programme, which has already benefited 446 young people between 16 and 24 in the Vale of Glamorgan.

I have met many of the young people who have taken up jobs through this scheme and are now in permanent posts.

Funded by the Welsh Government and the European Social Fund, Jobs Growth Wales has been a huge success over the last three years helping nearly 15,000 young people across Wales and it has been particularly important for the private sector where 8 out of 10 of the jobs have been created.

Over the past fortnight, there have been a number of important announcements by the Welsh Government to boost business and support communities.

The Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, Edwina Hart AM, visited Barry Island before Easter on the day I announced the full devolution of non-domestic rates in Wales.

As Finance Minister, I welcomed this development, saying that this would give Welsh ministers new flexibilities to make use of an important economic lever.

Last week, Edwina Hart was able to announce the extension of the Wales Retail Relief Scheme and an increase in the maximum benefit available to £1,500. This followed the announcement of our extension of Small Business Rates Relief until March 2016.

The Wales Retail Relief Scheme is open to retail, food and drink businesses occupying premises with a rateable value of £50,000 or less.

All good news for Vale businesses.

So there is much to celebrate and enjoy in Barry and the rest of the Vale, as we invest together in the regeneration of the Vale with a partnership between the public and private sectors.

However, the role of volunteers in the community must also be praised in every aspect of their work from supporting the Vale Foodbank, to the work of MIND in the Vale and the CAB, which are all vital charities working to ensure that we support the vulnerable in our communities.

The volunteers I met at Age Connect for my recent surgery on Barry's Holton Road in the Senior Health Shop are just one example of the teams who work across the Vale – doing a fantastic job, because they care about their community.

Take a Walk for Kidney Wales

THE public is being invited to take a bracing walk while raising awareness and funds for Kidney Wales in Morrisons' car park, Barry on Sunday, April 26. Registration starts at 11am and the walk begins at 11.20am from the car park, heading down Broad Street to the lake and back along Park Avenue to return to Morrisons.

For sponsor forms and further information call Debbie Baker on 07876 597021 or email debron63@hotmail.com.

The Walk for Life is used to raise funds and to promote awareness of kidney disease and organ donation. Kidney Wales started the Donor Card scheme and played a large part in the instigation of the Organ Donor Register.

Once again, this year's Kidney Wales Barry Walk for Life is being organised in memory of Richard and John Taylor and my son Lloyd Baker.

We also take time to remember those who have had successful transplants and are now living a normal healthy life.

If you, or any of your family, have been affected by kidney disease, please come along to support us, or sponsor one of the 'walkers'.

DEBBIE BAKER

CARERS' MEETING

CARERS are invited to go along to The Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on April 28 from 10am to 12 midday, where Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding an information session.

Contact 01446 732385 for information.

Talk on herbs

THE Llantwit Major Horticultural Society meeting on Wednesday, April 29 at 7.30pm in the Llantonian Hall will include an illustrated talk by broadcaster, writer and lecturer Sheena Crossley.

She will explain how to grow and use culinary and medicinal herbs, and will bring along some cuttings from her garden for you to have a closer look.All are welcome.

The hall is just off the Boverton Road behind the library, at the back of the Rugby Club car park; admission is free.

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Probus' new chairman

AT a well-attended meeting of the Llantrisant & District Probus Club, held at Pontyclun Rugby Football Club on March 17, Mr Len Morris of Miskin (far right) was elected chairman for the ensuing year.

"All officers' posts were filled and so the club looks forward to a busy and full year, with speakers and visits to places of interest," said spokesman Bill Thomas.

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Late night walk highlights sleepless nights for mums!

MOST of us will think nothing of having a decent night's sleep. But for mums like Nichola Smith, a good night's sleep is a rare luxury.

This is because her five-year-old son, Lewis, has a rare genetic condition called Tuberous Sclerosis and, like many children and young people supported by Tŷ Hafan, requires 24-hour care.

"When I think of my daily routine, it really starts at midnight, rather than the normal 6am or 7am," said Nichola. An average night involves pain management, including giving medication and abdomen massages, washing him, feeding him and dealing with seizures."

When the morning finally arrives, Nichola will tackle day-to-day tasks like mealtimes and the school-run with daughter, Holly, as well as caring for Lewis and organising appointments and ordering medication.

This is why Nichola, of Llantwit Fardre, is such a supporter of Tŷ Hafan's Wales Onesie Walk, organised to raise vital funds and awareness of the challenges families like hers face.

Night time walk 2014.

Now entering its fifth year, the Tŷ Hafan night-time walk taking place on Friday, June 26 starts and finishes at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

Nichola said: "I'd like to thank all the ladies who take part in the night-time walks. They are always such fun and highlight some of the difficulties that families like ours face."

Tŷ Hafan offers a range of services for life-limited children and their families, one of which is providing short-break care to children and their families at its hospice in the Vale of Glamorgan, so families can take time out from their caring duties.

Emily Fradd, marketing and events coordinator at Tŷ Hafan, said: "The vast majority of Tŷ Hafan's funding comes from charitable donations and fundraising. The Wales Onesie Walk is one of the activities raising these vital funds."

The event, sponsored by Cardiff's Walkabout – the official venue of the Wales Onesie Walk after-party – has had a makeover. This year walkers are required to wear a onesie and can choose from a choice of 5km or 10km routes, both ending at midnight.

Emily added: "It's a magical night-time walk, with the camaraderie between the hundreds of women taking part, creating a wonderful atmosphere. As well as the walk, there will be pamper sessions, music, games and prizes before the event, and the usual glow packs and giveaways on offer."

The Wales Onesie Walk is a ladies-only event starting at 10pm. Men are not being left out as Tŷ Hafan needs male marshals to provide a clear and safe route for the ladies taking part.

Entry is just £10 per person and each walker is asked to raise £50 in sponsorship.

To register, or for more information, visit www.walesonesiewalk.co.uk.

RUTH KEARNEY

U3A hears of Valeways' work

THE speaker at Sully U3A's April meeting was Dr Meirion Morgan, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Valeways.

It was formed in 1996 and is a voluntary organisation which supports a wide range of volunteers to re-open and promote the Vale of Glamorgan's countryside. It supports the community in opening a sustainable network of public Rights of Way and promotes the accessibility of the Valeways footpath network.

There are many ways for volunteers to become involved and they come from various organisations and businesses as well as students and members of the community.

Volunteers can take part in work parties clearing overgrown vegetation and litter from footpaths, the installation of stiles, posts and bridges, leading walks, photography, IT support, administrative help and project management.

Dr Morgan said the work of the volunteers was invaluable and more are always needed. He gave members an overview of the walks led by Valeways volunteers where anyone can turn up and go! He was thanked by chairman, Jean Bispham.

The Knitters and Stitchers group has once again been busy and members have decorated the outside of The Old School with Easter eggs, chicks and bunnies. Some of the items made were used in the decoration of St John Baptist Church, Sully on Easter Sunday.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 14 at 2 pm in The Old School, Sully, when Don Llewellyn will be talking on The Brains Behind 'The Mob'. **SC**

VALE CARE HOME IS DRIVING FORWARD WORK ON DEMENTIA

A CARE home manager from the Vale has drawn praise for her work behind the camera after the innovative work of her care home in Penarth thrust her into a new line of work in film making.

Dawn Curtis, who manages the Ty Dewi Sant care home in Penarth, was involved both in front of the camera and behind in the making of a series of educational films to help raise awareness of the trials of living with dementia.

The films, entitled Home from Home, will be available as part of a learning resource later in the year, and will provide an opportunity for care staff to reflect on treating people as individuals and what influences quality of life for people in social care.

As well as featuring in some scenes with residents, Dawn acted as a consultant to the film's producers helping to read drafts of the script to ensure accuracy.

Dawn said: "Several residents and I had small parts. It was really fun and we feel privileged to be involved in such a valuable piece of work."

The Ty Dewi Sant home has recently been shortlisted for a Care Council for Wales Accolade award for the care it provides. One inventive project in particular that has attracted a lot of praise at the home is the use of an old Ford Mondeo, which now sits in the rural grounds of the home.

Dawn explained: "Our staff use the car to help residents recall memories of past holidays and trips as well as more physical activities such as repairing, washing, and even painting the car.

"As well as enabling our residents to reminisce, the car also provides those who work on it with a great feeling of satisfaction for having undertaken a worthwhile practical task.

"These may sound like mundane tasks to others, but for someone in a care home who is living with dementia, they are valuable experiences that offer a sense of independence."

The film was launched in Chapter Cinema in March as part of the new social care induction awards.

ABOVE; Tracey Jones care assistant, Renee Cavanagh, care assistant and Gill Handley, a resident at the home.

RIGHT: Dawn Curtis, care manager, Tracy Jones care assistant, and Malcolm Watson, one of the residents at the home, carry out a spot of car cleaning!

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CONSERVATIVES UNHAPPY ABOUT CARDIFF AIRPORT'S LATEST PASSENGER NUMBERS

THE Welsh Conservatives are on the attack after passengers numbers fell at Cardiff Airport in the year August 2013 to July 2014.

Figures announced last week put the fall at 3.6 per cent, as the airport was used by just over one million passengers.

The Welsh Government has spent around £80 million on the airport since purchasing it in 2013.

South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, said: "Passenger numbers have been in steep decline since 2007 and Welsh Labour's purchase of the airport has done little to arrest that slide.

"In fact, the Welsh Labour Government has spent almost £80 million on the airport so far, with passenger numbers up by a measly 12,000 since they purchased it in 2013

"When the former managing director left suddenly last year it was claimed that the new appointment would oversee a substantial rise in new routes.

"In reality, that appointment has yet to reap any real dividends for the taxpayer and the Welsh public deserves better."

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Former paralympic swimmer targets more triathlon glory following successful debut

FORMER GB Paralympic swimmer Rhiannon Henry from Bridgend is targeting more success in Para-triathlon, after winning gold in her first competitive race, *writes SIMON WILDERSPIN*.

Henry and her guide Nicole Walters claimed the victory in the PT5 category at the ITU (International Triathlon Union) World Para-triathlon event in South Africa last month.

And now the 27-year-old is hoping that a passionate home support can cheer her on to more glory when the Para-triathlon comes to south Wales in May.

"The next major event is only 30 minutes from my home, so I'm hoping for a big following," says Rhiannon, whose shy smile gives away her modest demeanour. "I know my family and friends are coming down to support me and with the bike circuit being quite small, the crowd will be quite compact and add to that atmosphere."

The former Bridgend Swimming Club member will be grateful to compete closer to home, having travelled nearly 9,000 miles to make her debut.

"It was an amazing place to have my debut," says Henry, who is still bearing her South African tan. "I was a bit nervous as it was my first triathlon but it all went well."

'Well' is probably an understatement, with Rhiannon finishing four minutes ahead of 2015 ITU World Para-triathlon silver medallist and Great Britain teammate Melissa Reid.

"Melissa is ranked number one and took the gold medal in the Europeans last year and silver at Worlds, so I was quite pleased and surprised at my finish in South Africa.

"The difficult part for me was transferring my swimming from in a pool to open water. I think my coaches were eager to see how I would cope, as some people just can't translate their pool swimming to open water but I seemed to do it very well."

The four day trip, including two for travel, has left the Loughborough-based athlete tired, but determined for more success, culminating, she hopes, with a plane ticket to Rio 2016.

"The aim of course now is Rio, absolutely. The qualifying for the games is quite complicated but it's to do with how you place in major competitions in the year leading up to it. You're not qualifying for your own spot; you're qualifying for a female spot so the British team then have to choose who the best are. I don't fully understand it; I just get on with it."

Compared to the world of swimming, she admits that her new sport allows her to focus on more events. "There are World and European Championships every year in triathlons and it's great to have a major event that often, as in swimming it was every four years between the games.

"I'll be qualifying for that later in May in Llanelli which will be nice to be involved in. So if I come top two out of the British girls I'll be guaranteed to go to European and Worlds, as well as the test event in Rio in August, which will be the course where the games will be, that will be in August. That'll be amazing, to go over there and experience what it will be like in 2016."

Due to there being three female triathletes, one person will not be guaranteed a start, meaning a place on the Wild Card may be the only way of making it to Brazil. When asked about that option, Rhiannon is forthright with her response: "My aim is not to be in that spot."

And who can blame her. She has achieved two bronze medals in swimming at the Paralympics in Athens 2004, as well as competing at both Beijing 2008 and London 2012, but still feels she has much more to give and is turning the hurt from London 2012 into motivation.

"I missed out in two races at London," she explains. "I finished fourth in both, 0.1 of a second behind bronze in one and then just over a second in the other.

"I found out two years before London that they weren't going to have my two main events (100 fly and 400 freestyle), they had been taken out of the programme. So I had to go for my third, fourth and fifth best events, so I already knew it was going to be a bit of an uphill struggle but I decided to keep at it and try my best to win a medal.

"I was still really pleased with fourth, especially with my 200 medley as that was a personal best, and even though I was a second off bronze, it was still a lifetime best, so I was pleased.

"It's just that one race where I was 0.1 of a second off that really hurts. It was very tough and I think that's why I ended up giving up on swimming.

"Going through two years of solid training for an event that wasn't really my best took its toll on me and I didn't really want to continue after that.

Rhiannon admits it was no knee-jerk reaction that made her retire from the pool after London, citing that she took two full months before arriving to a very tough conclusion.

"It was a very hard decision because I'd been swimming and part of a club since I was eight-years-old. It's just what I did and who I was.

"I didn't want to make a decision straight after London when my emotions were really high so I decided to get back into training and I was enjoying it at first, but then about two months later I just didn't want to do it anymore so I was comfortable knowing I had stopped for the right reasons. But after two years off and now that I'm back in the pool, I am loving it."

For a young girl who was warned off riding bikes due to her being partially sighted, Rhiannon's eye for Rio 2016 gold is anything but!

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150 Years of Penarth – *a trip around Glebe Street 'shopping centre' before the docks*

IT'S time to clock off after a day's toil constructing Penarth Dock. Unless you happened to live in Cardiff, the chances were that you would have had accommodation in fledgling Penarth, either as a householder or a lodger, *writes BRIAN KEITCH*.

Or, of course, working alongside family – many boys – some as young as eight or nine, in the days before schooling became the norm, were expected to pay their way – often work which was dangerous by nature. It was, after all, still the days of chimney sweeps.

If you were a mason or gantryman, you could expect approximately four shillings and sixpence a day (22p today) – not bad in the 1860s. An attempt by management to cut the pay in November 1863 to compensate for the slow progress in the construction of the works led to an all-out strike.

The stop in working threatened to further delay the opening of the dock – so the men won the day.

With your wages in your pocket a much needed glass of ale would be welcome – from just two inns in 1851, 10 years later there were 13. More particularly in Penarth 'town' the Windsor Hotel (with its own brewery since 1856), the Ship Hotel, the Plymouth Hotel, The Pilot, The Royal Hotel, the Clive Arms, the St Fagan's Castle, The Golden Lion and – the Penarth Head Inn was still open for business.

A 'glass' of ale would set you back (depending on brand) as little as one old penny (0.83p in today's money). Worthington's Best Ale would cost you twice as much. But what brew? By 1885 Cardiff alone had a head-spinning 18 local breweries, many serving about a dozen public houses.

Back in 1863, the likes of Brains and Hancock's were still light barrels away! Penarth's own brewery – Lovett's (the brewery still stands next to the Windsor Hotel as flats) probably supplied quite a few local hostelries – saving the cost of sending drays from Cardiff.

It certainly had plenty of capacity – an advertisment in the press beams out – '*Visitors to this fashionable resort will do well to try this celebrated Home Brewed Beer, made solely from Pure Sping Water, Malt and Hops. In casks 4, 5, 9, 18, 36 and 54 gallons*'!

Thirsty? The ad goes on: '*Talk not of Fiz or Sherry, For this at least is clear, There's not a beverage in the Land, like Lovett's Home Brew'd Beer. It braces you, it wakens you – It fills you with good cheer: It's meat and drink, and clothes I think – Is Lovett's Home Brew'd Beer!*' (Clothes?)

The Penarth Brewery, after several changes of hands seems to have ceased production by the early 1900s. Shame. But, suitably refreshed – how about a trip around town – 1863 style?

Look no further than Glebe Street to fill up your shopping bag – or in those days – cart. No1 Glebe Street – John Morgan, grocer; No 2 James Howell – tobacconist; No 3 James Pickford, printer – later founded the Penarth local press with the Penarth Chronicle; No 4 John Phillips – ironmonger; No 5 Susan Pasley – newsagent; No 6 James Slade – florist; No 9 Charles Rowland – umbrella maker; No 11 Benjamin Morris – draper. OK, weekend joint: No 13 David Cornwell – butcher; milk and eggs? No 30 Timothy Driscoll – dairyman; shoes/boots? – any of these: No 15 George Payne, No 51 James McKenna, No 68 William Finch.

How about some veg with the beef – No 71 Morgan's or No 62 George Cole. Bread? No 64 Richard Draper, baker. Fish for a change? No 65 William Sadler (should ring a bell even today with most Penarthians) or No 70 WG Hayes. Headwear? – No 66 James Lewis – hatter. Something to read? No 67 Rachel Roberts – bookseller. Short back and sides? Try No 47 William Whiley – hairdresser. Pubs? Albion, Golden Lion, St Fagan's Castle Nos 21, 54 and 103 respectively. Later the Prince of Wales Theatre opened up in the same street for your entertainment.

Oh! Fancy a chicken instead? No 97 John Narin – poultry dealer; some new tables and chairs? No 88 E Jones furniture dealer; lick of paint? Look no further than William Johns, No 100. Paper hangings? No 63 Charles Delve – house decorator. Need some coal for the fire? Pop around to Arcot Street, Edward Brown No 41 or William Thomas No 47 will oblige. New teapot? Same street, No 58 William Williams – china dealer.

Of course, there were no cars, they had not been invented yet – but you may need some provisions for your horse. No problems – there are plenty of providers for grain and hay here! But it was short of eating houses – just No 3 Maughan Terrace, W Males – next door to another pub, Penarth Dock Hotel.

However, tranquility was not far away from the hum-drum of dock building – a pint at the Penarth Head Inn was still on offer – or an easy walk up to the ancient St Augustine's Church with its views across the Severn Sea; or Mor Hafren – with then, dozens of ships anchored off – awaiting the call to enter Cardiff docks.

As work on Penarth dock neared completion, the Penarth Head Inn was demolished to make way for the Custom House where, ironically, is now a restaurant where drinks may be had again! Another unique part of the ancient was destined for the attention of the demolition men.

Permission was granted on July 6, 1865 for the church of St Augustine to make way for an altogether grandiose structure, to reflect the fast-growing township. The final sermon was preached in the old church on the evening of Monday, July 19 1865 by the Rector Charles Parsons.

This was truly the end of an era. The sermon which was printed by Hugh Bird that year runs to some 2,000 words – though apparently not the complete version delivered that evening.

The next day the workmen arrived to take the church down, to make way for the new edifice.

From the clamour of the new town it was still a quiet stroll – albeit along steep and often muddy tracks to the beach. The visitor would find just a bank of pebbles up against a track with only a few houses there – Elizabeth Matthews lived in Rock Villa, Edward Morgan, a farmer, lived in Beach Cottage and William Evans resided in Sea Cot.

The Kymin was passed in the descent to the seashore, occupied by John Batchelor JP and somewhere Stuart Stockdale the customs officer presided. In due course a stone esplanade was constructed – the lifeboat station built and soon the boating and bathing enthusiasts arrived, but it was still farmland all the way to Lavernock and beyond.

The new town was here to stay and expectations ran high for the historic day when the first vessel 'cut the tape' and Penarth Docks were declared open for business (albeit over a year late due to delays).

NEXT:
But why Penarth Dock? Ship collisions all around the coast!

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Out and About with The GEM

Reeves' John Wick is vacuous – BUT OH SO SLICK AND STYLISH

EVER since he hit paydirt with the success of *The Matrix* and its two inferior, yet still financially viable, sequels, Keanu Reeves has failed to really set the film world alight, the likes of *Constantine, Street Kings* and *The Day The Earth Stood Still* all relatively disappointing.

Having seen his last film, *47 Ronin* (a labour of love for the star) crash and burn at the box office, his latest film sees him take on the revenge thriller genre that has been so profitable for Liam Neeson, in *John Wick*; Reeves plays the titular character, who, having lost his wife, seeks solace in a new companion, a small puppy.

However, when gangsters, led by Alfie Allen's Iosef, steal his Mustang car and kill his dogs, Wick's background comes clear – he is a hitman feared by the underworld for his lethal manner, and Wick is intent on making those who have wronged him pay...

The opening 10 minutes of *John Wick* don't bode particularly well; having seen Keanu Reeves (never the most expressive of actors) attempt to emote following the death of his wife, we find ourselves hurtling into *Marley and Me* territory as he is sent a gift from beyond the grave in the shape of a puppy, its mission – to help John heal and grieve.

Had the rest of this film been a study of grief and eventual acceptance signified through the relationship of John and the dog (who, incredibly, offers the best performance here) then it would have made for a rather mediocre 90 or so minutes.

However, following the robbery that leaves Wick mourning his four-legged friend and the theft of his car, we shift gears quite considerably, as the remainder of the film plays out like one long, uncompromising action sequence – and is all the better for it.

On the surface, there is very little cinematic worth to *John Wick*; there is no real story other than Wick's desire to brutally kill anyone who dares get in his way; but despite this, it still makes for a pretty entertaining watch, the constant violence punctuated with some wry humour that seems to suggest that both writers and directors sense that playing this too poker faced would spoil the fun.

For example, as well as making the source of Wick's *Death Wish*-esque mission a small puppy, there is a hotel intended exclusively for assassins with a dry as the desert desk clerk, the hotel kitted out with an on call doctor.

Directors Chad Stahelski and David Leitch are better known as fight choreographers, and it certainly shows here, as every sequence is thrillingly staged, with no punches pulled and vicarious violence the order of the day.

While the high octane, bullets and brawn gets a little tedious towards the end, the pair don't make a bad fist of the direction itself, clichéd in places as it may be (a climactic battle in the rain, far too many bird's-eye aerial shots of New York), with the film having a distinct visual identity that lends it some style.

The performances are nothing to write home about, Reeves' high points being his physicality and ability, even at the age of 50, to deliver such a hard-hitting action performance (it's just a shame he is occasionally required to do some actual acting).

While the villains in Alfie Allen and his cronies are all your common-garden European gangster types, Michael Nyqvist's head gangster gets a little bit more depth and makes for an intriguing, if hammy, bad guy.

However, pulling a film like *John Wick* up for housing poor performances is too much like shooting ducks in a barrel; you don't go into films like this expecting an acting showcase. Instead it offers the blood, guts and bullets that you would expect, and judged on those terms makes for quite a slick and stylish viewing experience – and it also makes a change seeing someone other Liam Neeson shooting anonymous eastern European gangsters.

VERDICT: Some of the least impressive acting you'll see this year, but allied to some of the hardest-hitting actions sequences you'll see this year and with a sense of knowing and wit that adds a pleasant note, *John Wick* is a vacuous but slick piece of entertainment. Don't go expecting anything more than stylish, mindless action, and you won't be disappointed. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Taken* (2008), *The Equalizer* (2014).

by GARETH JAMIESON
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UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY!

DYFFRYN Gardens is offering the opportunity for an artist, or group of artists, to transform one of the upstairs rooms of the mansion into an interpretation of Dyffryn's story.

Several unrestored rooms in the house are open to the public but empty, and one room is waiting for a splash of creativity. That's where you come in; the room is a blank canvas in desperate need of new life.

You can use paint, textiles, glass, sculpture, graffiti and (almost) any other medium to re-vamp the room and to tell the story of Dyffryn Gardens to its visitors.

A spokesperson said: "There are loads of different stories at Dyffryn and it is up to you how you want to tell them. This is the third year the project has been running and the last three projects have been met with great success, one of which was award-winning. This is an opportunity for your work to be displayed to thousands of visitors over the course of the year and to get your work noticed."

This is a volunteer project with cost of materials and travel expenses covered up to the value of £200. For more information and to download an application form visit *www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens*. The closing date for applications is May 29.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D874.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £8,500, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 892151, 783466, 831314, 859833, 790608, 131920, 821186, 186824, 305687, 768500, 369086, 523138, 586993, 625062, 998540, 649528, 779243, 764329, 144013, 540252.

● **£5:** 284490, 291395, 170175, 170075, 475898, 280707, 607641, 407633, 911898, 526099, 733576, 564311, 561731, 410228, 201976, 665150, 704099, 192617, 162144, 978170, 630071, 810823, 127406, 310960, 272845, 679928, 431556, 391228, 949683, 216001, 689020, 438687, 804297, 481415, 494984, 578403, 809657, 256554, 678775, 618661, 194564, 943051, 849711, 709570, 773551, 573888, 216431, 980111, 831846, 240950, 294469, 171605, 653518, 884043, 961406, 890612, 815393, 467296, 1044, 226.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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WHAT'S ON AND WHERE?

Pressure test

AN event to mark Stroke Awareness Day will be held at Trinity Church, Porthcawl on Saturday, April 18 between 10am and 4pm.

Organised by the Rotary Club of Porthcawl, residents and visitors are invited to have their blood pressure measured.

Tests will be administered by health professionals who are trained to identify potential problems and advise on appropriate action.

Ward surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Buttrills and Court wards: Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and Stuart Egan will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery on Saturday, April 18 from 10am – 11am in the small community room of Barry Library, King's Square. No appointment necessary.

Candidates on parade

ON behalf of local churches in the Vale of Glamorgan constituency, a husting is to be held on Sunday, April 19 at 3pm in Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Barry. All seven nominated candidates have agreed to attend.

Mediumship

BARRY Spiritualist Church and Centre presents an evening of mediumship on Monday, April 20 at 7pm with Gerard Smith. Pay at the door £5, Buttrills Road, Barry (CF62 8EF).

TOP advice

A FREE Tax Help for Older People (TOP) surgery will be held at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB on April 20 from 10am until midday. No appointment necessary.

To access the TOP's helpline, telephone 08456 013321 or 01308 488066. Home visits can be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

Poet speaks

POET Steve Griffiths is the guest at Sustainable Wales' Green Room, 5 James Street Porthcawl CF36 3BG on Friday, April 24 at 8pm (followed by an open mic).

He will be testing some of his 'Late Love Poems' due from Cinnamon in 2016, the press that has published his last two books. Admission £3.

Valeways walks

APRIL 26 walk to nature reserve, meeting St Brides Major car park, past cattle grid at 2pm.

April 30, 'South!' meet at Peterston-super-Ely at 10am.

Coffee Shop Strollers meet on Wednesdays at 10.30am; Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry on April 22 and Cosmeston Country Park on April 15 and 29.

Welsh learners and speakers meet on Tuesdays at 10am; Ynys y Barri, Hoffi Cerdded, Hoffi Coffi at Coffee Cove CF62 5TJ. Y Bontfaen, Hoffi Cerdded, Hoffi Coffi outside library CF71 7AH.

Further information at www.valeways.org.uk or email info@valeways.org.uk, telephone 01446 749000.

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Ty Hafan's Rainbow Run in Porthcawl

ABOVE: A total of 1,700 people will take part in the 5K run.

EXCITED fundraisers have just a couple of days until Tŷ Hafan's colourful Rainbow Run in Porthcawl this Saturday, April 18.

Coney Beach will once again be filled with a sea of colour when 1,700 participants take on the 5K fun run in aid of Tŷ Hafan, the hospice for children in Wales.

Those taking part in the sold-out event can walk, run, skip, dance or even hop the route – and will be showered with coloured powder along the way.

Mair Kinsey, marketing and events officer at Tŷ Hafan, said: "We aim to make the very most of the precious moments that life-limited children and their families have together – that's why we think that the Rainbow Run is the perfect way to celebrate and support the work we do.

"We are so pleased that so many people have signed up for the Rainbow Run and we'd like to thank Coney Beach Pleasure Park for hosting the event for the second year and providing the perfect beach location for our Porthcawl run."

In 2014, the Rainbow Run raised almost £70,000 for Tŷ Hafan. This year the charity is holding its colourful Rainbow Run at Dare Valley Country Park, Aberdare, on July 18 and Pendine Sands on September 26.

Julian Hodge is kindly supporting the event and Peter Lynn Solicitors, Coney Beach Pleasure Park, South Wales Wood Recycling and J&J Motors have kindly sponsored paint stations along the route.

The charity welcomes spectators to go along and watch this unique event, starting at 1.30pm at the runners' village next to the pleasure park.

It costs £3.7m a year to provide the Tŷ Hafan's state-of-the-art facilities at Sully and deliver its support services to families out in the community.

Registration for the charity's Aberdare Rainbow Run will open on Monday, April 20. Visit www.rainbowrunwales.co.uk or call 029 2053 2282 for more information.

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Vale of Glamorgan Mayor says... 'VERY HAPPY 101st BIRTHDAY, TRIXIE!'

ABOVE:
Celebrating her 101st birthday with the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Howard Hamilton, is Mrs Trixie Hevron from Rhoose.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor, Coun Howard Hamilton, visited Mrs Trixie Hevron, who was celebrating her 101st birthday, and presented her with a flower arrangement.

Mrs Hevron lives in Rhoose, but was born in London.

"I've been through two world wars – and during the Second World War I served in the Fire Brigade during the blitz.

"My husband Jim was a member of 617 Squadron and helped in the organisation of the Dambusters raid and the bombing of the Tirpitz. He was mentioned in dispatches twice."

Mrs Hevron also has a treasured letter from Guy Gibson, who led the Dambusters raid, thanking Mr Hevron for his help in the operation.

The couple met in the dispatch department of Rowntrees in 1941. Their son Stuart was born in 1945.

The family moved to Cardiff in the 1960s when Mr Hevron was offered a job with a retail business buying and selling textiles. He often travelled to the Far East for the company.

They later moved to Rhoose. Mr Hevron passed away 21 years ago, but Stuart is not far away and local people are supportive.

"My son is in Abergavenny and I have wonderful neighbours. I'm in a nice spot, very quiet.

"It was nice that the mayor and his wife came to visit me – they are a lovely couple."

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BRIDES & GROOMS

Getting make-up just right for the perfect bride on her special day

ENSURE your wedding day make-up goes without a hitch. Our experts reveal their top tips for bridal beauty.

By Lisa Haynes

Nobody wants a bad hair day or a mirror nightmare, but if there's one time in your life when you need to look your beautiful best, it's your wedding day.

With your closest family and friends to hand – and a photographer snapping at your heels – being a bride should be the happiest day of your life.

So the last thing you want to worry about is make-up blunders.

Make-up artist Jemma Kidd says: "The best wedding make-up is subtle and unobtrusive, yet reveals and enhances everything that's most beautiful about a bride's face."

Whether you're being made up by your best pal or a team of professionals, ensure you've got your look prepared by way of a few trial runs.

Our beauty experts offer their big day advice to ensure you're glowing inside and out.

Make-up musts

You may be a master of make-up for everyday looks, but bridal is a very different marriage of techniques and tricks.

"Bridal make-up needs to have enough colour to compensate for the whiteness of the dress," explains make-up artist Bobbi Brown.

"Apply your make-up as if you were going to a formal event – everything should be a bit stronger than the make-up you normally wear."

To ensure your lip colour lasts throughout the 'kiss the bride' peck and beyond, Brown advises lining and filling the lips with a matching lip pencil before applying your lipstick.

Beaming with love, you may have a natural glow on the day but you'll still need a touch of colour.

"When choosing a blush, go for pink if you are fair, and rose if you are dark. Apply it to the apples of your cheeks for a healthy glow.

"For a pop of colour, use a brighter shade just on the apples of your cheeks," Brown recommends.

Avoid embarrassing make-up blunders during the speeches with tear-proof products. Look for waterproof and long-wearing formulas in both mascara and eyeliner to avoid smudges and streaks.

Face powder is a must, according to Brown: "Set concealer and foundation with a powder puff. And don't forget to bring pressed powder in your evening bag for touch-ups throughout the day."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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BRIDES & GROOMS

Getting make-up just right for the perfect bride on her special day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Romantic hair

Forget the debate about summer or winter weddings, one of the biggest decisions for brides is whether to wear hair up or down.

If the top of your dress is fussy, an 'up-do' is a good option to keep the focus on your face and gown.

Redken session stylist Giovanni Giuntoli recalled a New York Bridal Fashion Week when hair was 'high and refined' for spring/summer.

"The season balanced the hair with the big gowns, while an avant garde twist gave even more height and drama."

An up-do adds instant sophistication and elongates the neck, according to Giuntoli. He advises asking a bridesmaid to hold on to a mini finishing spray for touch-ups to ensure that your style stays in place all night long.

If you have a simple dress and want a more relaxed, modern look, try Giuntoli's 'end-of-day waves'.

"The look is down and the waves are not tight, they're fresh," he explains. "We're trying to get away from the corkscrew for a youthful, casual after-wedding look that's flattering and flirty."

Ring fingers

As you take your husband-to-be's hand at the altar, the last thing you want to offer him is chewed nails or a garish set of false talons.

Ensure your ring finger and its nine family members are preened to perfection.

"Start thinking about the condition of your nails four to six months before the big day," advises Joanna Hansford, director of manicurists at Jo Hansford salon.

"It takes six months for a new nail to grow completely, so if they are damaged in any way they have a good chance of recovering in time."

Condition and hydrate your hands and nails using a hand cream and cuticle oil last thing every night for at least a month before the wedding to see happier hands.

If you're addicted to nail decor, hold off excessive use of coloured nail varnishes in the run-up to your wedding.

"Nail polish removal can cause nails to dry out, so try not to use it more than once a week and opt for acetone-free ones," advises Hansford.

"Darker colours can also stain the nail bed if used over a long period. However, if this occurs, lemon juice can be used to cleanse them."

As for the big day itself? Ask your manicurist to assess your nails and see whether long, short, square, oval or rounded most suits your hands and plan the shape in advance.

Hansford recommends: "Natural nails always look best if you are going for a traditional wedding but if you are going for a more modern, contemporary look, you could have a brighter colour but make sure it doesn't clash with your dress."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Fascinating fascinators!

ABOVE:
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BRIDES & GROOMS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

I do, and don't...

"On your wedding day, you should look like yourself at your most beautiful," says Bobbi Brown, whose top tips for wedding day beauty are:

Don't: Go to a tanning bed right before your wedding. If you want more colour, use a self tanner. Test the product weeks before the date and apply several days before the wedding in case you need to make corrections.

Do: Complete a make-up trial to avoid any surprises.

Don't: Use concealer on the eyelids. It causes eye make-up to crease.

Do: Keep your look natural, fresh and modern, using colours you have worn before and know they suit your skin tone.

Don't: Apply shimmer all over the face. One or two accents are enough.

Do: Make sure your foundation is right for your skin tone. Your colour may have changed since the make-up trial.

Don't: Wear frosted, shiny or sparkly shadows as it will reflect camera flashes.

Do: Try and put your dress on after you have done everything else. Make-up should be completed beforehand.

A bridal bouquet from Anastasia

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Nature walks at East Aberthaw

SPRING is in full swing and to celebrate, the Wildlife Trust will be leading a series of nature walks around the East Aberthaw nature reserve.

East Aberthaw nature reserve is located on the east side of Aberthaw Power Station and will be holding walks throughout the year on the third Monday of April, May, June, July and September – to introduce local residents and nature lovers to the wonders of the site's unique ecology.

Each month will provide a different opportunity to spot some of the diverse species that can be found at the reserve. The first walk on April 20 will be looking for migrant birds, early flowering plants and insects.

The walks are supported by RWE's Aberthaw Power Station, who own the land that contains the saline lagoon, one of only four in Wales. The station also helps to manage the area to encourage and maintain the bio-diversity of habitats, flora and fauna.

Richard Little, station manager at Aberthaw Power Station said: "We are proud to welcome the Wildlife Trust to lead the nature walks and would encourage local residents to come along and enjoy this unique environment on their doorstep."

The next walk is planned to start at 6pm, April 20, at the bottom of Well Road and everyone is welcome to attend. Every level of interest is catered for, whatever your age.

Please note that the ground can be uneven so suitable footwear should be worn. Unfortunately, it is not suitable for wheelchair users. For more details, contact Rachel on 07753 650964.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Sprawling surburbia' is due to lack of planning

THE Vale Council seems intent on turning the Vale into sprawling suburbia, reliant on cars to reach shops, employment, etc. which are primarily located in Cardiff.

The current house-building target of 10,000, a 19 per cent increase in current dwelling numbers, which developers are very eager to deliver ahead of the LDP timescale, will surpass all previous building records.

A total of 19 per cent on 2011 numbers would mean an extra 12,950 vehicles on our roads, and an extra 4,000 commuters into Cardiff, resulting in an extra 1,400 cars during the morning peak hour and 1,600 in the afternoon peak hour, through Baron's Court or Culverhouse Cross.

Traffic from the Vale has to pass through either Baron's Court or Culverhouse Cross on its way to Cardiff, and only a minority have access to train services. There is no credible plan for sustainable travel alternatives.

The proposed 100 dwelling development at St Nicholas, like that at Colwinston, is completely reliant on cars for access to shops and places of employment and leisure.

It's likely that the cheapest new private houses will cost more £350,000 each, as those proposed for Bonvilston, making them unaffordable for most local people.

The demolition of the former HTV studio, a unique and valued work space at Culverhouse Cross, has removed hundreds of employment opportunities from the Vale and west Cardiff. In terms of spatial planning and the environment, this is a disaster. Meanwhile, we still await the delivery of the Cardiff Airport and St Athan aerospace enterprise zone.

The Vale needs jobs, so people can walk to work – expensive road and public transport expansions sit idle outside peak hours.

We need to go back to sustainable/spatial planning basics, ensure that employment, facilities and excellent public transport are at the heart of planning decisions, review the housing target, and create homes to meet the needs of our communities.

Ian Perry,

Political bias?

I WAS mildly amused at what I can only assume was faux outrage at the Conservative 'wrap' advert published a couple of weeks ago.

I certainly hope it wasn't genuine on the part of Dr David Ellis, or I would have to bring into question his ability to read, as the wrap was clearly marked as an advert! I would hope our councillors were not quite so gullible and able to comprehend bodies of text presented to them, else we are in more trouble than we previously thought!

The questions over the GEM's impartiality are ridiculous when you look back at the letters page and read the same anti-Conservative rants published week in and week out by the same writers – who I can only assume are local party activists using the letters page for their own party's agenda.

The GEM has shown it is more than happy to publish letters from readers of all political leanings and I hope The GEM will not be browbeaten into the content it publishes, or the choice of advertisements it runs, as these avenues are open to all parties.

The complaints smack of sour grapes because the Conservatives were first to do it in the run-up to the general election.

(Name and address supplied).

Vale Jazz await bid decision

THE Vale Jazz organisers are awaiting the outcome of a bid with the Arts Council for Wales, before the event can finally proceed.

In addition to support from the Vale Council, Newydd Housing and Cardiff Bus, the organisers have now made an approach to the Barry Waterfront developers, to see if they would be interested in supporting the event.

The event is planned for June 18 – 21 in and around Barry Island, with 20 bands planned to play in 10 venues.

An open meeting to discuss the event will be held at 7pm in Barry Civic Offices, on Thursday, April 23.

All are invited to attend this open meeting.

Coun Richard Bertin,
Barry.

'UNCARING COALITION SHOULD BE ASHAMED'

MY daughter is 44 years old and has never been able to work, due to the frequency and severity of her epileptic fits.

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has written to her and told her she was being put into the ESA work-related activity group, which means she will have to travel to attend the local job centre and work with a work coach to get her ready for employment.

We wrote to the DWP and asked them to reconsider this decision.

We also sent them a letter from her consultant neuropsychiatrist, which stated that she has never been able to work and that as well as her severe epilepsy she has other psychiatric problems. The DWP ignored this letter and a letter from her optician detailing the vision problems. She also has said their decision will stand.

My daughter never leaves the house alone, due to the number of fits she has when she is out – a family member is with her at all times.

This Conservative-led coalition should be ashamed of the attacks on the disabled. They truly are the nasty uncaring party.

I have asked Jane Hutt, my Assembly Member and Gwyn John, my local Vale councillor for their help.

There is no one else we can turn to for help against this unfeeling decision which is causing my daughter such upset and worry.

(Name and address supplied).

'Barry needs more hotels'

IT is fantastic to see Barry Island so busy and bustling with visitors, following major investment allocated when Plaid Cymru were in government, and the re-opening of the fairground, but we mustn't miss a trick here.

People who visit Barry for the day are vitally important, but we know that overnight visitors spend far more money – on accommodation, eating out and entertainment, all of which would create more jobs in Barry.

The Vale Council needs to work more closely with the major hotel chains, as they did with the Premier Inn, to bring hotels to Barry – making the most of our easy links with Cardiff city centre and Cardiff Airport in Rhoose.

Bringing more money and jobs to Barry is the real regeneration that our town needs.

Coun Ian Johnson,
Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan.

Thinking through a referendum

WITH the election almost upon us, the Tories have been trying to present their promised EU in-out referendum as a plus point in their favour, and an often repeated argument they advance is that the younger generation of the population have not had a say whether they want to be in or out of the EU.

By that argument, we will need to have in-out referendums every few years to allow each new generation to have its say, thereby putting Britain in perpetual political uncertainty.

No business would want to invest here under those circumstances, and I daresay even many corner shopholders may decide to pack and leave for more settled shores.

This letter is not an argument for being in or being out of the EU, it merely points out the possible consequences of referendums conjured up by politicians for their own short-term electoral gain at the expense of detailed thought and argument in the interest of the nation.

Marc Delaney,
Barry.

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Between groups you get free access to our members-only website, packed with recipes and advice.

Why not visit one of our groups this week? There is no obligation to join so you can just come along and feel the wonderful atmosphere in our groups as well as finding out more regarding our amazing plan.

We look forward to you sharing your Slimming Journey with us.

Saturday 9.30am
Maesteg Sports Centre, Maesteg
Lorraine 01446 734710

Saturday 9:30am and 11:30am
Brackla Community Centre, Brackla
Rhian - 07837 280013

Monday 5.30pm
Gilgal Church Hall, Woodland Avenue, Porthcawl CF36 5HU
Beverley 07912 172674

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Tabernacle Church Kings Square, Barry
Lorraine 01446 407002

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue, Penarth
Nia 07793 885581

Tuesdays 9:30am
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian, Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Tuesdays 5.30pm
Bryntirion (Penybont) Football Club Llangewydd Road Bridgend
Rhian 07837 280013

Tuesday 5.30pm
Ebenezer Church Hall, opp. Surgery, North Cornelly CF33 4LB
Dee 07733 267369

Tuesdays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
The Welfare Hall, Hope Avenue, Next To The Old Cinema, Aberkenfig, CF32 9PR
Lorraine 01656 734710

Tuesdays 6:30pm
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola - 01446 740394

Tuesdays 7:30pm
St Marys Catholic Church Hall, Ewenny Road, Bridgend
Graham 07475 865005

Wednesday 9.30am
Ebenezer Church Hall, opp. Surgery, North Cornelly CF33 4LB
Dee 07733 267369

Wednesdays 6:00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Wednesdays 4:45pm and 6:45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Wednesday 5.30 & 7.30 pm
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen - 01656 720963

Thursdays 9.30am
Nolton Church Hall Merthyr Mawr Road Bridgend
Donna 01656 669739 07790797008

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Thursdays 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry CF63 4EL
Nicola - 01446 740394

Thursday at 5.30pm
Pencoed RFC Felindre Road, Pencoed
Donna 01656 669739 07790797008

Thursday - 5:30pm
Scout Hall, Minerva Street Bridgend
Rhian - 07837 280013

Thursdays 5:30pm
Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry Annamarie 01446 736534

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Matthew now offers ground floor clinics in two medical practices: Oak Tree Surgery, Whitethorn Drive, Brackla (CF31 2PQ) and Riversdale Surgery, 10 Merthyr Mawr Road North, Bridgend (CF31 3NL).

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New Pilates course for beginners

A NEW Pilates introductory course for beginners starts on Thursday, April 30 at 9.10am at St Nicholas Hall, Barry.

The course runs for six weeks and costs £39. Qualified Pilates teacher Sharon Sylvester will lead the class.

She said: "Pilates is a lovely way to start the day and the timing makes it ideal for anyone dropping off at school."

The class will introduce beginners to Pilates, then starting to add Pilates equipment such as the magic circle, soft balls and bands in the second half of the course.

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise that both strengthens and stretches the body. Classes are small and friendly and can be taken either in Barry at St Nicholas Hall and St Francis Millennium Centre, or in Cowbridge at Curves Gym.

To book your place, contact Sharon on 07830 085606 or see www.barrypilates.co.uk.

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Gibbonsdown children's centre gets a helping hand from bank staff

GIBBONSDOWN Children's Centre recently received £250 and a day's labour from staff at the Holton Road branch of Santander, as part of the Santander Community Day.

The staff spent a day with centre staff, clearing, planting and building a vegetable garden in the wildlife garden at the centre.

Garden coordinator Julia John received the cheque in a ceremony launching the garden as 'Marie's garden patch' – in memory of Marie Martyn who had worked at the centre for over 10 years as cook.

Marie sadly died last August. Her children, Debbie and Ayshea, granddaughter Tegan and great-grandaughter Khobie attended the cheque presentation.

Julia said: "It was great to see Marie's family at the launch of the garden and see all the work that the staff had done. We will be growing all sorts of vegetables for the children to dig up and eat.

"We have already planted potatoes and beans. The children are busy watering and weeding daily to keep it tidy. This is a fitting tribute to Marie, who loved to cook healthy food for the children."

Santander branch manager, Heidi Smith said: "The staff loved working with the centre and to see it being used is just what we want.

"We want to thank local business Thomson and Sons, for generously donating the wood which enabled us to build the patch."

Gill Munro, centre manager, wanted to say a big thank you to Santander and to Thomson and Sons. "As a charity we rely on projects like this to help us go the extra mile for the children."

Premier visit for Marco's!

Prime Minister David Cameron joined Alun Cairns for a flying visit to Barry Island last week during a whistle stop tour of all four nations in the United Kingdom. The Prime Minister and wife Samantha met at Marco's Cafe to discuss the regeneration of the Island with fairground operator Henry Danter and Marco Zeraschi.

Police appeal after assault on Island

POLICE in Barry are appealing for witnesses to an assault which occurred at Barry Island on Thursday, April 9.

Officers were called to the area in the afternoon and spoke to three members of the public who had witnessed an altercation between two men. A 44-year-old man was arrested by police and is on police bail pending further enquiries.

There was believed to be a group of adults and children outside Marco's Café around 3.20pm on that day whom officers would like to trace because they may hold important information that may help them with their enquiries. If you were in that group, officers would like to hear from you.

Anyone with information is urged to call the police on 101 quoting reference number 1500122264. Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be contacted free and anonymously on 08000 555 111, or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

BOOK QUIZ

LLANTWIT Major Library is holding a World Book Night general knowledge quiz on Thursday, April 23, from 7pm to 9pm.

Just £1 per person with free nibbles and prizes for the winning team. Telephone the library on 01446 792700 to book a place.

LOCAL ARTISTS 'INSPIRED' BY SPLENDOUR OF THE VALE's EDWARDIAN HOUSE AND GARDENS

THE Vale of Glamorgan Artists (VOGA) a group of professional artists, have spent the past year creating contemporary artworks inspired by the beautiful Grade II-listed Dyffryn House and its gardens.

An exhibition of their work is now open to the public and will continue until the end of May.

Now run by the National Trust, the estate is returning to its former glories and the artists have recorded their responses in a wide range of media from oil paint to photography and from sculpture and ceramics to quilts.

The exhibition will launch the newly restyled Exhibition Room, formerly the Garden Room, which is accessible to the public whenever the gardens are open.

Visitors will be able to enjoy a diverse range of artworks. VOGA chairman Bernard Heslin says: "Dyffryn has provided us with a fascinating and beautiful site in which to work. We have enjoyed spending time in the buildings and gardens during our year-long residency through the changing seasons."

Over the past year visitors may have spotted artists working in various parts of the house and gardens. Local sculptor Sue Roberts was captivated by multicoloured marble heads on one of the spectacular carved fireplaces. She has produced sculpture and photographs.

Watercolourist Sue Paton could have been seen around the garden with her sketchbook as she captured flowers through the seasons. Her exhibit features nearly 300 post-card sized paintings: "My inspiration is the abundance and variety of the displays," she says.

Painter Richard O'Connell was captivated by the garden's classical urns and figurines which he drew with pencil crayons: "They mirror a grander age when style showed status," he explains.

Children playing in the arboretum inspired Eve Hart's charming painting of cheeky children hiding up a tree as she investigated the contrast between the geometry of structures and free organic forms.

Painter Allan Brown also pursues figures among the cut hedges and the secret corners of the garden in his acrylic paintings.

Painter Ann Townson was struck by the luscious greenness of Dyffryn which, she says, always "shocks" her.

Sculptor Gwyneth Price has been observing, drawing and photographing fern forms for her stone carving. Sue Edwards' paintings and prints focus on statuesque entrances, doorways and trees.

Bernard van Lierop's prints combine sets of photographs that capture some of Dyffryn's dramatic transformations through the seasons.

Textile artist Judy Stephens has taken a more abstract approach with her colourful quilts which try to capture something of the discrepancies between the brief grandeur of life at Dyffryn and the harsh reality of the coalface and the freighters which transported the coal worldwide.

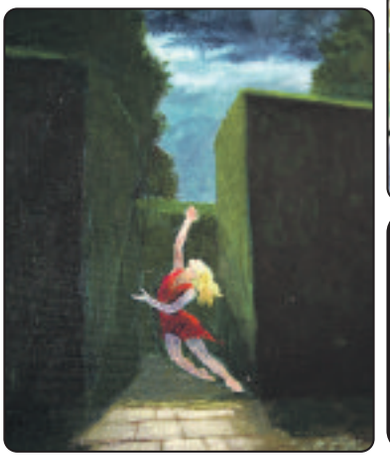
Pam Jones was also intrigued by the Cory family and has worked with porcelain heads and figures.

The VOGA artists have a relationship with Dyffryn which now stretches back a decade. It started modestly with involvement in a Heritage Weekend exhibition of arts and crafts in 2005.

VOGA took over running the event in later years and in 2009 the artists were invited to make work to celebrate the anniversary of Dyffryn's Pompeian Garden.

The exhibition, which is called 'A Year at Dyffryn 2' with VOGA, includes four drop-in children's drawing workshops open to the public. These are free and will be from 10am to noon and from 2pm to 4pm on April 18 and 25.

More information about members of VOGA can be found on their website: www.vogavaleart.org



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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Mistakes and penalties cost Barry 3rds dear

SEA VIEW 12
BARRY 3RD XV 5

WITH no points in the league all season, Barry 3rd XV were hoping for better things when they travelled the short distance to Sea View for a local derby.

Selector Ken Chow and manager Frank Greig handed prop Andrew Fortt and Liam Kirsch their first senior games of their careers, whilst there were also first starts for Nath Davies, Leighton Jones and Andy Betts. Dave Williams made his return from injury for his first game in 2015.

The disrupted nature of the selection was clear as the early exchanges saw Barry make some basic errors, all the while suffering from the referee's whistle. The away side's misery was compounded as Betts was sent to the sin-bin after less than five minutes.

Sea View took full advantage of their superior numbers and raced into a 12-0 lead before Barry returned to 15 men.

Despite still being penalised heavily by the official, especially in the contact area, Barry finally put together some phases with Dave Williams, Rhidian Mepham and Liam Ring to the fore.

A period of Barry pressure saw make-shift fly-half Joel Williams break the line, before Davies finished off the move by scoring his second try in as many games. The conversion was missed.

Sensing a momentum shift, Barry poured forward to look for the equalising score, only to fall foul of the referee's whistle again. This time the damage was much more severe as veteran Jason Evans saw red.

At half time, the management attempted to rally the 14 men on the field, and also sent on fresh legs in the shape of Dave Evans and Kyle Case.

Despite being one man short, Barry dominated both territory and possession in the second half, but there was a clear lack of cutting edge, due to the rustiness of some of the players. Having not played since January, there were numerous handling errors and poor decision making, with players missing obvious overlaps which surely would have produced a score on another day.

There was still time for debutant Fortt to bulldoze his opposite number over in open play – an act that earned the loudest applause, but the home side held on for a victory.

Considering that the side has been forced to compete with 1st XV and 2nd XV from other clubs all season, the fact that Barry 3rd XV still exists is a testament to the spirit and effort of the players and staff. The 3rd XV will host the Royal King's Hussars on April 18, kick off 2pm.

Team: Bailey; Kirsch, D Williams, Davies, Chucas; J Williams, Mepham; Fortt, Leighton Jones, Ring; Deyes, Hall; Betts, Lloyd Jones (c), J Evans. Replacements: D Evans, Thomas, Case, M Jones.

Man-of-the-match: Fortt.

Llangeinor & Pentyrch point-to-point is at Pyle

THE Llangeinor & Pentyrch Hunt point-to-point steeplechases take place this Saturday (April 18) at the Dunraven Stud, Pyle, near Bridgend and racing gets under way at 2pm.

It starts with the young horse open maiden over a two-and-a-half mile course.

Chris Williams' *Boost The Power*, which finished third behind *Star Rise* and *Moontripper* at the South Pembrokeshire Easter Monday meeting, could get backers off to a good start.

Jonathan Tudor, who has been in good form this season, holds the key to the members' race with four entries and his selected one should win.

In the men's open, all eyes will be on David Llewellyn's prolific *Rosies Peacock* who last time failed by just half-a-length to beat *Sir Du Bearn*, who will probably be in the line up for the Dudley Cup.

Rosies Peacock wasn't his usual self that day and will have to be at his best if he is gong to beat Jeff Bird's *Repeat Business*, a 10-length winner of the men's open race at the Monmouthshire, who has been successful in his previous three starts.

Roger Willcox's *Lauberhorn* was a five-length winner of the ladies' open race at the recent Ystrad Taf Fechan meeting and the only danger, if he runs in this race, appears to be the Jonathan Tudor-trained *Tiger Rag*.

Of the 13 down to run in the restricted, *Banned In Bhutan*, *Distant Sound* and *Shanks A Bunch* are preferred in that order. While *Sahara Haze*, *Final Storm* and *Mimicry* look the pick in the open maiden race.

BRIAN LEE

Turnaround for Barry 2nds against St Joseph's

BARRY 2ND XV 19
ST JOSEPH'S 2ND XV 22

BARRY 2nd XV ended their league season on a clear spring afternoon, welcoming the visit of St Joseph's.

With the same opponents having put over 160 points past the home side on the last two occasions, expectations were not high.

This was especially the case when coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow had to deal with a mounting injury list, which saw them promote Nath Davies and Chris Deyes from the 3rd XV, and Lucas Davies from the Youth XV. Tony Heard started his first game in five months.

Against the wind and slope, and with the sun in their eyes in the first half, Barry knew they had to battle hard to keep themselves in the game.

Unfortunately, with a misfiring line-out, possession and territory seemed easy to come by for St Joseph's, who negated the power of the home pack by once again opting for uncontested scrums. Surely this should be outlawed to preserve the integrity of the game.

It was no surprise when the visitors opened the scoring with an unconverted try out wide, and some supporters feared the worst.

This was, however, a sterner Barry side and despite constantly falling foul of some questionable refereeing decisions which left both teams baffled, the home side rallied with some excellent carries from the likes of Wayne Jones, Lloyd Dutton and Dominic Busuttil.

Just reward arrived when scrum-half John Dimond released the line of backs and the ball found its way to Dave Evans, who crashed over in the corner to score. Jones failed to add the extras.

St Joseph's would, however, go into the interval with the lead after they scored a well-worked push-over try in the corner which went unconverted, but the game at half-time was still in the balance.

With Julian McTavish, Jon Morris and Gerwyn Pugh all thrown on at half time to freshen up the side, Barry began with a spring in their step and it was not long before they troubled the scorers.

The territory was gained by the forwards, but a clever switch in direction by the half backs saw Busuttil crash through under the posts virtually untouched. Jones added the extras to send Barry into the lead.

With the wind firmly behind them now (literally), Barry poured forward for another score, and it duly came when some neat play in midfield released Neil Bragg out wide, and he outpaced the defenders to score his first try for the club. Pugh added the extras superbly from the touchline to give Barry a nine-point advantage.

Despite having the game under control, Barry failed to add to their advantage, missing several opportunities with both backs and forwards to blame for a combination of poor decision-making and haphazard handling with the line at their mercy.

St Joseph's duly got back into the game following some loose kicking by the inexperienced Barry back-line, and in a matter of five minutes the home lead was gone via two breakaway tries.

The home side rallied one last time and bore down on the St Joseph's line but once again their effort was thwarted by the referee's interpretation of the laws and the chance was gone.

While the effort was commendable, Barry would rue their inexperience and lack of ruthlessness for this defeat.

Team: Evans; Bragg, Busuttil, Knapman, N Davies; W Jones, Dimond; Heard, Turnbull, L Davies; Dutton, L Jones (c); Goodfellow, Miles, Rolfe. Replacements: McTavish, Morris, Deyes, Pugh.

Man-of-the-match: Busuttil.

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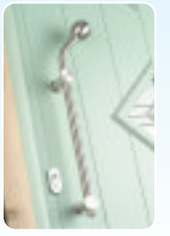

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Bryn Hafren students gain a close insight into national politics

A GROUP of sixth form students from Bryn Hafren enjoyed a glimpse into the world of UK politics during a visit to the Palace of Westminster recently.

Seven girls, all of whom are studying politics as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate course, were given a personal guided tour of the Palace, which included time in both the House of Lords and House of Commons, and sat in on ministerial statements delivered on behalf of the Home Office by Theresa May.

For some, it wasn't just a first visit to the home of British politics, but also the first time they had been to London, where they had to get used to big city hustle-and-bustle, as well as dealing with the intricacies of navigating the Underground transport system.

Bryn Hafren's Welsh Baccalaureate co-ordinator Natasha Jennings commented: "We were very privileged to have been given a personal tour of the Palace, and everyone learned a lot from the day.

"The visit really sparked the girls' curiosity, and they left London with a greater interest in politics in general. All were enthusiastic about returning to Bryn Hafren and furthering their understanding of the ways in which politics works, and I am sure that a lot of that is thanks to Mr Alun Cairns, who went out of his way to make the trip unique." **SP**

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Artist's impression

Artist's impression

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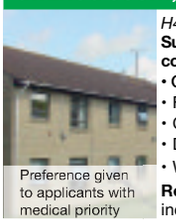

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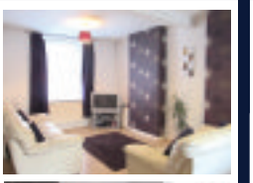

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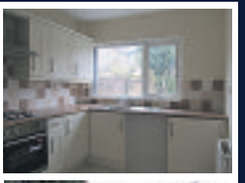

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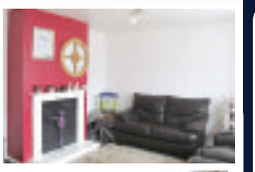

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NEW

BUTT-LEE COURT, BARRY
Well presented, 2 bedrooms, ground floor apartment, living room overlooking front, fitted kitchen, replacement shower room, GCH via combi, UPVC DG throughout, door security entry system. ER=C.
£99,950

NEW

ROMILLY COURT, BARRY
First floor, well presented, 2 bedrooms, open plan kitchen/diner/lounge, GCH via combi, UPVC DG. Designated parking to rear.
£92,500

NEW

ST BRANNOCKS CLOSE, BARRY
Semi detached, extended dwelling, well presented, living room, open plan kitchen/diner, sitting area, 3 bedrooms, balcony off master, viewing essential. ER=D.
£174,950

NEW

NELSON ROAD, BARRY
Well presented, versatile detached dwelling, ground flr: living room, conservatory, 2 bed, modern kitchen, family bathroom, first flr: master bed, ensuite, bathroom, garage, ample parking, enclosed rear garden, ER=D.
£179,950

NEW

WOODLANDS RD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living room, extended kitchen/diner, 1st flr: 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom, 2nd flr: third bedroom (to regulations) enclosed garden.
£144,950

NEW

ROWAN COURT, BARRY
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£149,950

NEW

TYDFIL STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced, traditional dwelling, through living room, fitted kitchen, replacement fitted bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, no chain. ER=D.
£114,950

NEW

PHYLLIS STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living/dining area, fitted kitchen, ground floor: bathroom, utility area, 3 double bedrooms, hobby area to attic, no chain. Viewing advised. ER=D.
£124,950

NEW

GLADSTONE ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional bay fronted, through living room, WC cloak, kitchen/diner, 3 bedrooms, spacious family bathroom, 23ft basement room. No chain.
£178,950

NEW

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
End of terrace traditional dwelling, 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, modern bathroom, enclosed rear garden, gated side access - no chain. ER-E.
£124,950

NEW

ST PAULS AVENUE, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, spacious living - well presented, Ground flr: living room, kitchen/diner. 1st flr: 3 bedrooms, bathroom. Attic area: providing hobby area. Basement area: further room, bathroom. Enclosed rear garden - garage, no chain. ER-D.
£169,950

NEW PRICE

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, well presented spacious dwelling, 2 seperate reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, 1st floor replacement bathroom. UPVC DG, GCH via combi boiler. Enclosed rear garden. ER=D.
£119,950

NEW PRICE

HERBERT STREET, BARRY
Traditional semi detached, well presented, 2 double bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen, living room/dining room, driveway & garage.
£129,950

NEW PRICE

SALISBURY ROAD, BARRY
Bay fronted mid terraced, traditional dwelling, through living/dining room, 3 bedrooms to 1st flr. 4th bedroom to attic (full regs). Enclosed rear garden, minutes walk to Porthceri Park. ER=D.
£149,950

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£234,950

NEW PRICE

TYNEWYDD ROAD, BARRY
Substantial end of terrace property, original features, ground flr: living room, study, cloak, sitting room, dining room & kitchen. 1st flr: 4 double bed & bathroom, 2nd flr: hobby room with velux windows. Well presented. ER=E.
£194,950

NEW PRICE

NANT TALWG WAY, BARRY
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£286,950

NEW PRICE

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NEW PRICE

COED YR FELIN, BARRY
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£269,950

GLAN Y MOR, BARRY
2nd floor apartment, 2 bedrooms (ensuite), approx 16ft living room, balcony with water views, GCH, offered with no chain. Designated parking. EPC=C.
£109,950

WINCHESTER CLOSE, BARRY
Modern semi detached, living room, kitchen overlooking rear, 3 bedrooms, bathroom - WC, side access - no chain. EPC=D.
£84,950

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
End of terraced, 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 1st floor bathroom, offered with no chain. ER=D.
£69,950

THE PASTURES
Mid terraced, living room, kitchen/breakfast, 2 bedrooms, enclosed garden, designated parking space, no chain. ER=C.
£114,950

CARADOC AVENUE, BARRY
3 bedrooms, semi detached, living room, kitchen/diner, driveway, ideal room to extend, no chain. ER=D.
£129,950

GERDDI MARGARET, BARRY
Third floor apartment, 1 bedroom, designated parking, open plan lounge/kitchen, security door entry, well presented. ER=C.
£84,950

SHACKLETON CLOSE, ST ATHAN
Stunning showhome presented, end of terraced, refurbished throughout, luxury fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, parking, viewing highly recommended. ER=E.
£99,950

SEAPOINT, BARRY
2nd floor, 1 bedroom, views over the old harbour and The Knap. Kitchen/breakfast area, family bathroom, economy 7 heating - UPVC DG, security door entry system.
£99,950

CUDD Y COED, BARRY
Spacious modern detached, 4 bed (ensuite), converted garage, living room to dining. Kitchen 17'0 approx/breakfast, utility, fabulous rear garden, raised decked sun terrace. Viewing essential. ER=D.
£257,995

COOK ROAD, BARRY
Spacious living, modern detached dwelling, living room, kitchen/diner, sitting room (converted garage) 5 bed(ensuite) modern family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, ample front parking, ER=D.
£242,000

WHITE FARM, BARRY
Spacious 4 bed, persimmon built detached, living room, kitchen/diner, utility room, ensuite to master, detached garage, well presented, ER=C.
£239,950

KATHLEEN STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, through living/dining, ground floor bathroom, 3 double bedrooms, larger than average garden, minutes walk to Porthkerry Park, viewing essential, no chain. ER=D.
£119,950

WESTON STREET, BARRY
Extensive works via local authority in 1999. Replacement roof, re-wired, replastered floors & ceilings, 2014 replacement central heating, mid terraced traditional, double bay fronted, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear courtyard. ER=D.
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£139,950

GREENACRES, BARRY
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£124,950

QUEEN STREET, BARRY
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Three Bedrooms
Ground Floor Bathroom
Enclosed Rear Garden
Barry Branch

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Barry £125,000
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Two Bedrooms
Lounge with a mezzanine level
Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating
NO CHAIN
Barry Branch

Heol Y Dryw
Barry £285,000
Detatched
Four Bedrooms
Sea Views
Conservatory
NO CHAIN
Barry Branch

Heol Y Gaer
Barry £154,950
SEA VIEWS
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Living Room, Kitchen
Allocated Parking
Situated On The Knap
Barry Branch

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Well Presented
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Jenner Road
Barry £95,000
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West End Location
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NO CHAIN, Off Road Parking
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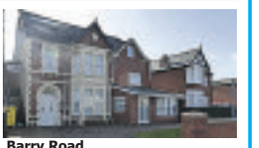

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Garage
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Promising start to new season for sea rowers

PICTURED: Back row: Emma Everitt, Tony Peters, Sarah Parson, Nicola Spear, Ian Mason, Bradley Peters. Front row: Maria Alvarez, Jane Peters, Rafa Perez-Dominguez, Paul Fisher.

TWO crews from Barry Yacht Club Sea Rowing recently competed in The Cleddau Challenge, a race of 13 miles starting in Haverfordwest and finishing at Neyland Yacht Club.

With 34 boats competing, it was quite a spectacle and a bit of fun getting the boats onto the river. Still, the race started on time with the first boats away by 11am.

After a really pleasant start in the sunshine, there was a pretty strong headwind on sections of the river, and for the last three miles, it was hard rowing against a strong westerly wind. Still, we all finished tired but exhilarated.

The first crew finished in 16th place in a time of 1hr 52 minutes, with the second crew some nine minutes later. It was a fantastic performance from both teams, especially with three crew members still in their first year of rowing.

Barry Yacht Club Sea Rowing will be competing in the eight South League races this year, starting with Wiseman's Bridge on Sunday, May 17, and then travelling to all points in west Wales including Llangrannog, Dinas Head, Aberaeron and Llansteffan through to September.

Then there are the five distance races, which vary in length from eight miles to 14 miles.

If you want to get fit and have fun then sea rowing in a Celtic Long Boat is the best place to do it. You get to see the coastline of Wales from a completely different perspective and meet a whole new group of people who just want to have fun – and compete as well!

If anyone would like to try out this great sport, then you would be very welcome to come down to Barry Yacht Club and we'll take you out for a row. All you need is enthusiasm, no previous experience is necessary. We will provide the instruction and the safety equipment.

You can find out more on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BarryRowers or email: rowingsection@barryyachtclub.co.uk and we'll send you a copy of our 'Introduction to Sea Rowing' booklet.

PF

Porthcawl RFC's faith in youngsters is repaid with win

Mattie Davies with the ball.

TONMAWR 24 PORTHCAWL 39
WORDS AND IMAGES BY PAUL FIELDING

PORTHCAWL, shorn of several unavailable players, put faith in their youngsters and took revenge for the earlier narrow defeat at South Road, taking the spoils in a remarkable turnaround of events.

On a glorious sunny afternoon and with the home pitch in perfect playing condition, both sides contrived to make too many errors and the first half had lasted almost half an hour before any sign of a break in the stalemate.

Just when the half seemed to be drifting to a mute close, with the Porthcawl eight having managed to achieve a platform near the home 22, Jordan Skidmore broke the ice with a snap dropped goal on 28 minutes for the visitors at 0-3.

Five minutes later, with the home side pressing, Skidmore, ever the possible game-breaker, latched delightfully onto a loose pass and intercepted to canter home untouched under the posts for a try he converted and 0-10 at the break.

The second half started and progressed in an entirely different vein, as Tonmawr proceeded to get a grip, first with a converted try for 7-10, then another to lead for the first time at 14-10 before pressure on the Porthcawl scrum yielded a penalty try, again converted.

At 21-10 the match had turned on its head as Seaweeds mistakes allowed the home side too much latitude, conceding points too easily and it seemed that the match would slip away.

Then came a remarkable turn-around in fortunes, as Dai James, playing well at both flanker and centre in this same match, took the fight to Tonmawr, with a superb break through midfield to set up a try for the impressive Owen Davies, converted by Skidmore before Davies himself turned provider.

His searing break through a bemused home defence put Skidmore in for an unconverted try that put Porthcawl ahead by a point at 21-22.

Jordan Skidmore making a break with Joe Muir in support.

A home penalty goal again put Ton ahead at 24-22 before Porthcawl found a remarkable purple patch that took the match in some style.

Firstly, with the young Porthcawl eight now applying the pressure to the home scrum just short of the try-line, flanker Joe Bowen was first to the ball as it shot out of the retreating scrum, to grab a crucial try at 24-27.

Next the galloping Rhys Mortimer, on barely a few minutes as a sub, tore into the home defence for fellow youth lock Christian Long to grab the ball and plunge over at the posts for a try that Skidmore again improved and 24-34.

With time ticking away, Skidmore produced a sublime piece of skill, feigning to drop at goal before flicking the ball left to rampaging skipper Lloyd Long, who charged over for the final try at 24-39.

This entertaining match was full of surprises and the way it loosened up in the latter stages provided the Seaweeds with a much-welcomed boost ahead of the showdown with Pyle in the season's final league match at South Road, this coming Saturday.

Barry and District latest sports tables

CRIB Division 1: Rhoose Social 6, Wyndham Cons 9; Moors Boys 6, West End 9; Liberals 7, Railway 8; West End Wanderers 9, Cadoxton Cons 6.

League Table: Wyndham Cons 193; Cadoxton Cons 192; Liberals 192; Moors Boys 185; West End Wanderers 180; West End 176; Rhoose Social 169; Railway 153.

Skittles Division 1: Rugby Club 5, Sea View B 2; Rhoose Social A 3, Allsorts 4; Rhoose Social B 6, Runway Club 1; Rhoosters 6, Liberals C 1; Cambrian Flyers 5, Slammers 2; Barries Boys 6, King William XII 1; Liberals A 6, Rhoose Social C 1; West End C 2, West End D 5.

League Table: Sea View B 121.0; West End C 116.5; Allsorts 104.0; King William XII 99.0; West End D 91.5; Barries Boys 89.5; Slammers 88.0; Rugby Club 87.0; Rhoose Social A 83.5; Rhoose Social B 80.0; Rhoosters 79.5; Liberals A 65.0; Rhoose Social C 64.5; Cambrian Flyers 59.0; Runway Club 55.5; Liberals C 53.5.

Snooker Division 1: Wyndham Cons A 2, Cadoxton Cons Z 3; Cadoxton Cons B 3, Harbour A 2; Savoy B 3, Rhoose Social C 2; Rhoose Social B 0, Harbour B 5.

League table: Harbour B 99; Savoy A 92; West End C 75; Cadoxton Cons B 75; Cadoxton Cons Z 71; Rhoose Social C 57; Wyndham Cons A 57; Harbour A 56; Rhoose Social B 56; Savoy B 46; Penarth Cons B 44; Wyndham Cons C 42.

Snooker Division 2: Railway A 3, Railway C 2;
Sully Sports A 0, Cadoxton Cons A 5; Market Street B 2, Penarth Cons D 3; West End B 2, Penarth Cons A 3; Railway B 1, Market Street C 4; Liberators 3, Services Social B 2.

League Table: Railway A 89; Market Street C 75; Liberators 68; Market Street B 68; Penarth Cons D 68; Railway B 68; Services Social B 66; Cadoxton Cons A 62; Penarth Cons A 57; Sully Sports A 57; *Railway C 46; West End B 46.

* = Points deducted.

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk ; Facebook search for 'barry leagues'.

Porthcawl under-8s develop their skills

PORTHCAWL 27 BRYNCOCH 30

PORTHCAWL under-8s welcomed a Bryncoch side who brought with them a very strong squad, and two games were played.

It was Porthcawl's first game in a number of weeks and they seemed slow to kick into gear which allowed the opposition to attack the spaces and build a lead.

After leaking six quick tries, heads started to drop. It looks like we need to work on our line speed and build the confidence again in tagging ahead of next weekend's festival at Kenfig Hill.

On the positive, despite a slow start the commitment shown and the never-say-die attitude shone through at the end with Stu's team pushing Bryncoch all the way in the second game, just missing out as a result of a couple of missed tags going down 6-7, a great improvement on first game losing 7-1.

In difficult games you need your players to step up and a number of our team put their hand up and led the charge for Porthcawl.

Let's start with Dexter, who didn't stop all game driving up in defence, scoring a try, and making some last-gasp try saving tags, deservedly picking up clubman award for making the difference.

Hot on his heels was Lewis who picked up top tagger award to add to the five tries with another great all-round performance.

In the other game, other stand-out performances came from Dewi who met the challenge of spinning out of the tackle. It worked, spinning through three players to cross.

Dewi, tagging and passing, drove the team forward and he picked up best effort clubman award for all-round effort.

Sam also had a fine game swerving and spinning all day. He tagged his heart out, coming out top tagger of the day for finishing off some great tries winning the first 6-4, and a hard fought win at the end 8-7 where sheer determination got us over the line.

In addition to effort, what was also pleasing was the number of try scorers, with nearly every player scoring, showing the team ethic and willingness now for players to pass ball into space for their team mates.

Tries: Dewi 6, Lewis 5, Sam 5, Dylan, Ryan Brody 2, Dexter, Oscar, Lex, Taylor, Zane. Top try scorer award for best try of the game, Sam.

Clubman best effort, Dewi.

Clubman make a difference, Dexter.

Top tagger, Lewis 15. Other good tagging displays from Dewi 23, Dexter 17, Sam 16, Oscar 13, Lex 13, Ben 7, Brody 6, Ryan 5, Dylan 4, Taylor Zane 3.

ROB HOOPER

Porthcawl under-10s in 'Plate' victory

Porthcawl 25 - 15 Bridgend Ath:

Try scorers: Stefan Yardley (two), Luke Roberts (two), Noah Eastment.

Porthcawl 5 - 5 Kenfig Hill:

Try scorer: Noah Eastment.

Porthcawl 30 - 5 Cambrian Colts:

Try scorers: Luke Roberts (three), Noah Eastment (two), Stefan Yardley.

Porthcawl 15 - 20 Valley Ravens:

Try scorers: Noah Eastment (two) Luke Roberts.

Porthcawl 15 - 10 St Peter's:

Try scorers: Luke Roberts, Josh Woodbridge, Noah Eastment.

Finished second and won the plate!!

MAT ROBERTS

Sully Bridge Club results

SULLY Bridge Club results for the week ending Saturday, April 11 are as follows:

Monday, April 6

North/South:1st Peter Millar/Jane Brooks – 67.82; 2nd Shirley Powell/Janet Cunnington – 58.10; 3rd Pat Evans/Jane Greatrex – 50.69. East/West:1st Pam Sherman/Patsy Cohen – 65.97; 2nd Anne MacDougall/Anne Hilary Jones – 60.42; 3rd Merion Avon/Dorothy Foulkes – 55.56.

Wednesday, April 8

North/South:1st Peter Millar/Trish Tracy – 59.66; 2nd Joan Andrews/Joy Secular – 58.71; 3rd Anne Johns/Bunty Wiseman – 55.87. East/West:1st Jane Greatrex/John Pikoulis – 62.41; 2nd Una Gavin/Judy Collins – 58.92; 3rd Pam Sherman/Pam Powditch– 58.57.

Saturday, April 11

North/South:1st Peter Millar/Trish Tracy – 63.33; 2nd Joan Thomson/Sheila Kavanagh – 52.50; 3rd Hazel Craig/Peter Craig – 52.50. East/West:1st Brenda Shepherd/Una Gavin – 67.36; 2nd Lynne Leyburne/Bill Leyburne – 54.14; 3rd Sue Knight/Brian Knight – 50.00.

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Thank You

Frank & Roz Couzens

would like to thank their amazing family for a wonderful weekend celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary and to family and friends for their generous gifts and good wishes.

Thank you all very much.

VENNERS

On the occasion of our Diamond Wedding

JEAN & PETER WOULD LIKE TO THANK

family & all friends for their generous contributions to the Teenage Cancer Trust and the grand total being £646. Absolutely amazing! Special thanks to Karen for her organisational skills, the Cafa Paco ie. Lyndon, Hannah & staff for all the hard work & lovely food which was enjoyed by all. Last but not least, thanks to Deano & Marc for the entertainment.

Birthdays

Cliff Gray

Happy 80th Birthday on 19th April

To a wonderful Dad on his 80th birthday. Love Jackie & Alun xxx

Happy 80th Hula. Love Danielle & Michael, Alix &Ben xxx

To our Great Bampy on his 80th. Love Imogen, Flynn, Camille & Baye xxx

Birth Notices

Congratulations

Laura & Gavin Williams

on the birth of our beautiful granddaughter

Kaitlin Grace Williams

born on 10th April 2015

With lots of love Mom & Dad xxx

Congratulations

Laura & Gavin Williams

on the birth of our gorgeous niece

Kaitlin Grace Williams

on 10th April 2015

Lots of love, Stephanie, Daniel and Sarah xxx

GEM FAMILY NOTICES

MULLIN

Violet Eveline (Nee Palfrey)

Peacefully at Springbank Nursing Home, Barry on April 2, Vi formerly of Aneurin Road, Barry. Dearly beloved wife of the late Joe, much loved mum of Eileen, Geoffrey and Marilyn, mother-in-law of Gerald, Christine and Charles. Loving nan of Danial, Thomas, Gareth and Rhys and great-nan of Libbi and Ila.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral service in the chapel on Monday, April 20 at 11am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12noon. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

ADAMS

Edward Howell

Paul and Charlotte would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral and supported them at this very sad time.

HOWE

Marian Vera

Suddenly on April 5 at Milsom House, Marian of St. Athan. Beloved wife of the late Sid, dearly loved mother of Gillian and son-in-law Robert. Much loved grandmother of Faye, Karen and Lynne, a cherished great grandmother and great great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday April 21, service 2pm at St. Athan Church, followed by interment in St. Athan Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

BOWEN

Anita Joy

Unexpectedly and peacefully at home on April 2 at the early age of 49 years. Nita a proud mother and wife of Stephen, Christie, Niall and Kelsie. Grandmother to William, Millie, Kai and Kian.

She will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew her.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road until her service at Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Tuesday, April 21 at 1.30pm where all are welcome, followed by a private committal service for immediate family and close friends.

Black attire optional, a special request is that colourful clothing be worn, maybe something purple to reflect on Nita's favourite colour and her personality.

Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service to MIND or The Dogs Trust in memory of Nita. Further enquiries to Lyndsay J Ellis 01446 407962.

BARCELLO

Marion Linda

Peacefully on April 6 at Barry Hospital, Marion of St. Athan. Beloved wife of the late Owen, dearly loved mother of Stephen and Michael, dear mother-in-law of Judith, much loved by all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday April 21, service and interment 11am at St. Athan Church. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

WARD

Dorothy

Chris, Carol, Viv, Grayham and Ashly would like to thank friends & neighbours who attended Dorothy's funeral.

Special thanks go to David Juliff and Carol Davies and her family for all their support.

Thanks to everyone for their cards, donations and messages of sympathy and to W James & Son for their professionalism.

MARY BERKELEY

Passed on April 20th 2011.

Sadly missed by husband Colin and all the family.

"Rest in peace"

ROBERTS

Stanley Gordon

Passed away peacefully on April 8, aged 99 years in Barry Hospital.

Funeral will be held on April 16 at 4pm at A.G. Adams, then 5pm at Barry Crematorium.

Stan will be very sadly missed by all of his family and friends. Family flowers only.

THOMAS

William Evan

Peacefully at home with his family. Evan much loved brother of Elizabeth and loving uncle. Sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium, Tuesday, April 21 at 12 noon. No flowers by request, donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to National Trust, St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan, CF5 6SU.

KILLA

Jean

Peacefully in her sleep at home after a short illness on April 10 April. Jane, much loved mother of Robert, Ann, Gereint and Janet, grandmother of Rebecca, Hannah, Robert, Eleanor and Kate.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Tuesday, April 21 at 10am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired for Marie Curie Cancer Hospice Penarth, for where her family are very grateful for their unstinting care of Jean.

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Public Notice

VALE of GLAMORGAN — BRO MORGANNWG

RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN DEDDF PRIFFYRDD 1980
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS 51 PENARTH)
GORCHYMYN AILGYFEIRIO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2015

Bydd y gorchymyn uchod, a wnaethpwyd ar 20 Mawrth 2015 o dan Adran 119 Deddf Priffyrdd 1980, yn ailgyfeirio bydd Lwybr Troed Cyhoeddus sy'n cychwyn yn Heol Dochdwy wrth (GGC 316944 172960), ac yn dod i ben yn iard chwarae'r plant wrth (GGC 316997 172971). Bellach bydd yn dilyn llinell sy'n cychwyn yn Heol Dochdwy wrth (GGC 316942 172962) ac yn dod i ben yn iard chwarae'r plant wrth (GGC 316997 172971), fel y'i dangosir ar fap y gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r gorchymyn a'r map wedi'u gosod, a chewch eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Cewch brynu copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Cewch wneud sylwadau ar y Gorchymyn neu'i wrthwynebu drwy anfon llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT erbyn 14 Mai 2015, a dylech nodi eich rhesymau dros ymateb.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law yn y ffordd briodol, neu os caiff y rhai a dderbyniwyd felly eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd hawl i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg gadarnhau'r gorchymyn ei hun fel gorchymyn diwrthwynebiad. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon at Weinidogion Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau nas tynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon gyda'r gorchymyn.

Dyddiedig 16 Ebrill 2015

NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 51 PENARTH)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2015

The above order, made on the 20th March 2015, under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert the public footpath running from Dochdwy Road (NGR 316944 172960) to within the children's playground (NGR 316997 172971) to a line running from Dochdwy Road (NGR 316942 172962) to within the children's playground (NGR 316997 172971) as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 14th May 2015. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 16th April 2015

PHOENIX ARE ON LOOK-OUT FOR NEW RUGBY TALENT

The Pencoed Phoenix senior team. Photograph by Julie Hancock.

PENCOED Phoenix are looking to recruit new players, coaches, first aiders and anyone willing to help and give up their valuable time for this exciting local women's team.

Phoenix are a Premiership side and have been to the Super Cup finals day in Llandovery, as well as beach rugby tournaments and have been winners of the league.

Phoenix have two Welsh internationals already playing for Wales, and they have been to Dubai and the Women's World cup 2014.

This year Phoenix are in the semi-final of the Plate Cup on April 26, venue to be confirmed.

You must be 18 to play. Contact the team manager, Michele Halse, on 07709 073912 or email michelegh76@outlook.com.

Pencoed hosts girls' rugby tournament

The Pencoed Phoenix under-16s. Photo by Julie Hancock.

THERE will be a girls' under-18s rugby tournament at Pencoed RFC and Pencoed School on April 19, first kick-off at 10am with two pitches available and the final played on Pencoed RFC's main ground.

There are 10 teams involved in games, coming from as far as Whitland to Gwernyfed.

We will be welcoming WRU women players' representatives on the day, with guests Carys Phillips and Shona Powell-Hughes.

The event is being sponsored by Invacare Pencoed.uk. Guests include Welsh women internationals.

All are welcome to be involved. Contact under-16s Pencoed Phoenix coach Leanne Casley on 07921 312897.

Pencoed run riot against Peterborough

RECENTLY, Pencoed under-14s entertained Peterborough RFC, the current Cambridgeshire league champions, and undefeated this year.

Pencoed scored 11 tries to come out as 69-7 winners.

Try-scorers were: Cael Chamberlain (four); Tom Bending (three); Josh Sands (one); Brigan Parrish (one); Luke Brown (one); Sam Costelow (one, and seven conversions).

Photos by Julie Hancock.

BBC'S SCRUM V TEAM VISITS BRYNTEG COMPREHENSIVE

ON Friday, March 27 the Scrum V team came to Brynteg to find out how the role of a school's rugby development officer has impacted on the game within the school.

Brynteg has a proud tradition of producing Welsh rugby stars, both past and present.

Currently ex-pupil Rob Howley is assistant coach of the Welsh team and hooker Scott Baldwin and scrum-half Rhys Webb were both part of this year's Six Nation's squad.

During the visit, Rhys Webb came to share his expertise with year-7 pupils, giving them advice and tips on improving their game.

He also presented the year-11 rugby boys with their jerseys in advance of their semi-final in the Welsh Schools' Cup.

When asked in a question and answer session with the year-11 rugby team "What was the proudest moment of his career so far?" Rhys had no hesitation in revealing that the highlight must surely be scoring his first try for Wales.

Ross Harries, the *Scrum V* frontman, interviewed Josh Lewsey on his role as head of rugby performance in Wales.

The former England World Cup winning centre is responsible for the strategic management of the whole of the game in Wales, from community to elite level, and keeps his eye firmly on grass-roots rugby as it has a major role to play in the future of the game in Wales.

Brynteg's rugby development officer, Ben Thomas, is one of four officers in Bridgend county schools, but more are expected in the near future.

Ben, who plays for Welsh Premiership team Aberavon, commented: "The programme has proved very successful this year and the players have enjoyed the experience. This is only the beginning, so watch this space!"

ABOVE: Left to right: Rhys Webb; Brynteg's headteacher Mr David Jenkins; Josh Lewsey; head of PE Mr Adam Rosser; and Ben Thomas – Brynteg's rugby development officer.

BELOW: Rhys Webb with the year-11 rugby team with their jerseys.

ATHLETIC START ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH RESOUNDING WIN

ON Saturday, Barry Athletic Cricket Club opened their historic 125th anniversary season with a resounding win over local rivals Dinas Powys.

Barry won the toss and captain David Goodway asked the visitors to bat first on a green lush wicket at the Athletic ground on a breezy sunny afternoon.

Dinas Powys openers Hannah and Piddock got off to a solid start and put on 49 for the first wicket before Piddock was run out by wicketkeeper Reji for 29.

Hannah went on to score a fine 50 in 62 balls before he became one of Goodway's three wickets in one over.

Mitchell was caught by Usswald for 0 and the very next ball Preston was lbw for 0. The score was now 81 for four and three wickets had fallen in four balls.

Tucker went with the score 115, caught Dawson off the bowling of Usswald. Dimoro was next to go, bowled by Usswald for 28.

Doel then picked up the wickets of Mosley caught by Baker 18 and Storey, bowled for three.

Dinas Powys finished on 156 for eight off their 40 overs.

Bowling figures were: Goodway, three for 34; Usswald, two for 25; and Doel, two for 26.

In reply, Barry were soon six for one when they lost the wicket of Jones for 0, caught off the bowling of Ali.

There was then a partnership of 35 before Dawson was bowled for 18 with the score on 41.

This brought Baker to the wicket and he was showing some fine form with some majestic shots square of the wicket as he added 89 with Brock, who had come to the wicket after the fall of Goodway for 30.

Baker then retired hurt with a fine 74 off 67 balls with 12 fours.

Griffett came and went before Reji and Brock saw the home side home to their score of 157 for four and a six-wicket win for the home side, with Brock not out 23, including his first six for the club.

This Saturday, Barry Athletic Cricket Club will be holding its 125th anniversary dinner at The Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry; there are some places left and it is priced at £25 for a four-course meal with Phil Steele the guest speaker.

Anyone requiring information can contact Mark Rees on 07570 135831 or e-mail markrees509@hotmail.com

HORSES CAN MAKE FOOLS OF US ALL!

SPARE a thought for Aberthin National Hunt trainer and former leading point-to-point rider Tim Vaughan.

Up until just a year ago, he trained *Saint Are* which finished a good runner-up to *Many Clouds* in Saturday's Grand National.

In fact, Tim had won two races at Aintree with *Saint Are*, the first a novice hurdle race in 2011 and the second a big listed race – the John Smith Handicap Chase – in 2012.

The horse later went to Slad trainer Tom George, who is of the opinion that if the run-in hadn't been shortened last year, *Saint Are* might well have overtaken *Many Clouds* who had won by just one and three quarters of a length.

French-bred *Saint Are* is described in Timeform's Chasers & Hurdlers annual as a workmanlike gelding who often races prominently and lazily and often let down by his jumping.

Which only goes to show that horses can make fools of you!

BRIAN LEE

VI's victorious in the Supporters' Cup final

ABOVE: The VIs are delighted to have landed some silverware

VI Football Club claimed their first trophy since forming in 2013 with a 2-1 victory over Tynewydd FC in a closely contested Supporters' Cup final at Jenner Park on Sunday.

Club captain and top scorer, Jordan Mortimore, did the damage with a second half brace adding to his already impressive personal season haul of 58 goals.

Tynewydd mounted a comeback late on with Dale Miller finishing a superb volley but the mid-table club failed to capitalise on their momentum and slipped to a second successive divisional Cup final defeat.

The Barry-based club finished the match with ten men after Gareth Union saw red for a late challenge on Jamie Robinson.

There was little malice in the tackle, but the match referee deemed it dangerous and dismissed Union with seconds left on the clock.

Manager Bill Laing has enjoyed many victories with his side this campaign and said: "The lads deserve the rewards as they've put in some strong displays this season and done the job, even when we weren't playing particularly well.

"I'm pleased for everyone and it will be valuable experience for the younger lads."

Captaining those lads is striker Jordan Mortimore who has enjoyed an unprecedented run of scoring form and dealt with the pressure of scoring the Cup final winner.

Speaking after the match, he said: "I felt a huge pressure taking it, especially with some of the younger lads dying to grab their first silverware."

With the VIs currently 10 points clear atop division one and Tynewydd in tenth place, supporters at Jenner Park could be forgiven for thinking this match would be more one-sided than it turned out.

Both teams had chances during the first half without any real danger to the scoreline at either end.

The VI back line of Reece Lewis, Nicky Cox, Richie Humphreys and Jamie Robinson filtered out any Tynny danger, with goalkeeper Paul Lucas plugging any leaks with ease.

It was the second half that saved the game and the ever reliant Mortimore who scored the opener to alleviate VI fears.

Certainly not the cleanest of goals of the VI captain's 58 this season with the striker scoring from close range after Aaron Rogers and Leigh Lewis's efforts were blocked in a goal mouth scramble.

The VIs were then momentarily down to 10 men as Dean Cleave received treatment for a head wound, but that didn't stop Mortimore sprinting at Tynewydd's defence and winning a free kick.

The captain fired the 30-yard set piece over the wall and onto the bar with a huge whack, coming so close to a second.

Tynewydd were struggling to mount a reply and it wasn't long before the VIs' lead was eventually doubled.

Tony Charles pushed up-field to pressure Tynny's defence and won the ball for the advancing Rogers. The forward hugged the edge of the pitch and rolled the ball inside to Mortimore, who tapped the ball past a defender in the box and was upended to earn a penalty.

As designated spot kick taker, the fouled captain took hold of the ball and struck home his second with what would turn out to be the winning goal with a low shot just right of the centre of the goal.

Despite the onslaught and setbacks, Tynewydd refused to give up and their efforts were rewarded with around 10 minutes left of the final.

Tynewydd winger, Dale Miller connected perfectly with a right footed volley across the VI goal and the ball settled into the net to set up a nail biting finish to the tie with extra time and penalties a possibility.

Unfortunately for the team in red, the goal was their last hurrah and to add insult to injury they finished the encounter with ten men when Jamie Robinson suffered a late challenge from Tynny coach and player Gareth Union. The young referee took his time with his decision and despite seconds left on the clock, decided to send the midfielder off.

After the game, Union showed class in congratulating the winners and also said: "Gutted I was sent off, but it was a very good game and our boys pushed them all the way."

VOGAFL Division One rivals Wenvoe Arms slipped up away at Glenbrook FC last week so Bill Laing and co can secure the title with two games to spare if they beat Barry Albion.

A VI Football Club spokesmen said: "We'd like to thank all the fans who traveled to Jenner Park on Sunday for cheering us on and adding a voice to our victory. Also, thank you to our sponsors for supporting our cup run and we hope to secure another two trophies yet. Our sponsors are Owens Motor Services, Llandow. Higgsy Site Services, Barry and The Three Horseshoes Inn, St Athan."

VI team: P Lucas, R Lewis, N Cox, R Humphreys, J Robinson, J Laing, T Charles, J Austin, C Goodwin, A Rogers, J Mortimore. Subs: R West, S Thomas, D Garrison, L Lewis, D Cleave. **RC**

Boxing club's Rhoose event

MEMBERS of the Llantwit Major Amateur Club are training for their next boxing event at the Cambrian Club, Rhoose on Saturday, May 16.

The exhibition boxing starts at 4pm. It is an outside event with a barbecue (£10 and £5 children). The event is in aid of the South Wales Air Ambulance, and also the boxing club.

There will be an auction of boxing memorabilia.

The club is looking for sponsors for each bout, so if anyone is interested in sponsoring a bout, call Karl Jones on 07738 386098, Micky Dixon 07970 394966, or Tony Meakin 01446 796784. **TM**

LLANTWIT UNDER-10s GET TO THE SEMIS

LAST Sunday saw Llantwit under-10s spend the day at a very cold Pentrych Rugby Club for the Cardiff and Vale District Tournament.

ABOVE: Llantwit Major in black, contested hard at the breakdown.

A break is on for Llantwit.

ABOVE: The Llantwit under-10s put everything into the tournament.

Last year, as under-9s, Llantwit came second in the tournament, losing out to St Peters, this year they were hoping for one better.

The first game of the day for Llantwit was against Llandaff. The game started off a bit scrappy from both teams, with missed chances at both ends.

It was Llantwit who were first to find space, with a great run from Rhys G to score Llantwit's first try of the tournament. He quickly followed that up with his first conversion.

Llandaff were strong, knocking play back a few times, but they just could not break Llantwit's defensive line. Some fantastic tackling from Dylan W and Iwan, and great rucking from Caleb, opened the field enough for Sam H to break through and score Llantwit's second try, and with Rhys G converting it, the final score was 14-0 to Llantwit.

The second match was against Penarth. This was a fast running game, with Llantwit starting the scoring off with two lovely running tries from Sam A.

Llantwit played some great rugby, passing through the players, creating opportunities for Caleb, Corey and Rhys G to add to Llantwit's score. Penarth were trying hard to break through Llantwit's line, but it stood strong.

Olly and Logan were at the breakdown quickly, talking to players, getting the ball out of the rucks quickly to Sam A and Dylan M who added to the scoreline, making the final score 50-0 to Llantwit.

The third match was against local rivals, Cowbridge. This local clash has always been a tough game, and with both teams looking for a win to get through to the knockout rounds, today wasn't any different.

Llantwit played strong and fast, and they were first to break through the Cowbridge defence, with Caleb pushing his way over the line and Rhys G converting it to open the scores.

Cowbridge were not taking it quietly though. They tackled strongly, making Llantwit play some great rugby. Cowbridge were next to run over the try line and convert it, taking the score level.

It took some great team work, passing, and strong rucking to make just enough space for Sam A to burst down the line to score the final try of the game, and with Logan converting it, the final score was 14-7 to Llantwit.

The last pool match was against St Peters, and Llantwit knew that this would be their toughest match yet. And they weren't wrong! St Peters were more drilled and structured than Llantwit from the start.

They quickly scored and converted three tries in the first half. Llantwit kept their heads up and worked hard. They were starting to pass the ball around trying to get it out wide, and eventually through sheer determination, they managed to create enough of a gap for Sam A to race to the line and score Llantwit's only try of the match.

St Peters played amazingly; they took the ball from Llantwit at the breakdown almost every time, passing the ball out wide quickly to the hands of their wingers, who scored another three tries this match. The final score was 7-42 to St Peters.

Llantwit had made it through to the quarters finals against Rumney.

It was a very feisty match, with both teams wanting to go through to the semi-finals.

Llantwit were the first to score with Caleb scoring a great try, and with Rhys G converting.

Rumney were a very physical side, and it took some great defensive work from Llantwit to keep Rumney away from the try line.

There were some crunching tackles, and I'm sure there will have been some stud marked players out on the pitch, as both sides threw everything they had at the game.

Rumney scored a hard won try in the second half, only to be followed quickly by two fantastic tries from Sam A, which were converted by Rhys G to bring the final score to 21-7 to Llantwit.

Llantwit were through to the semi-finals against St Peters, definitely not who Llantwit wanted to meet at this stage of the competition. It was a brilliant game to watch, and all players put everything into it.

Llantwit had to defend hard, as St Peters were quick off the mark, and first up to the play each time.

Cristian, Rhys D and Sam H made some fantastic tackles. Rhys G, Olly and Corey made some great runs. Dylan W, Caleb and Tom were tackling hard, trying to gain the ball, trying to make space.

Sam A, Logan, Dylan M and Iwan threw themselves at St Peters players to try and stop them, but St Peters were trying to keep their title from last season, and they just out-played Llantwit.

Final score 35-0 to St Peters. Heads up boys, keep at it and maybe next year it'll be the championship for you!

Squad: Tom Roberts, Logan Pike, Sam Harry, Iwan Thomas, Rhys Greenaway, Sam Alexander, Dylan Morgan, Corey Lougher, Dylan Wright, Rhys Davies, Olly Williams, Cristian Parry and Caleb Beare.

BRYNTEG YEAR-9 TAKE THE BISHOPSTON SEVENS TITLE

YEAR-9 took a break from their busy Welsh Cup campaign to compete in the illustrious Bishopston School Sevens in Swansea.

Brynteg cruised through their group, defeating Dyffryn School and Ysgol Gyfun Cwn Rhymni along the way. The weather dictated much of the day, with Brynteg having to adapt their usual expansive game plan.

Brynteg were then drawn against the much fancied Ysgol Dyffryn Amman in the quarter final. However, Brynteg really rose to the occasion to put in a dominant 38-10 victory, with captain Cael Chamberlain, Dan O'Sullivan and Dan Osarigie leading a huge physical performance.

Brynteg then faced another tough opponent in the semi-final in Ysgol Gyfun Cwmtawe. The conditions seemed to worsen before kick-off, but this didn't stop Brynteg putting in another impressive effort. Kasari Mehta put in a huge performance with Connor Fabian and Harry Ridge orchestrating things as half back pairing. Brynteg ran out eventual winners 32-0.

Brynteg progressed to the final where they faced the impressive Ysgol Bro Dinefwr. The rain lashed down as Brynteg kicked off and Bro Dinefwr caught them napping and ran in a try straight from the kick off!

Brynteg survived long periods of attacking pressure. Connor Cunnigham led the effort with a huge defensive performance. Mehta once again tackled like a man possessed and won turnover after turnover. Ridge and Fabian pulled the strings superbly well, Alexander, Marshall and Owen added superb impact from the side-line as Brynteg looked to put the game out of reach. O'Sullivan, Chamberlain and Osarigie were heroic in both attack and defence.

Unfortunately, there was a big blow for Brynteg before kick off as Fin Mullens was unable to play in the final as he aggravated a groin injury in the semi-final victory over Cwmtawe. Brynteg missed his attacking prowess but won a tense final 26-14 and were crowned 2015 Bishopston Sevens Cup Champions!

ABOVE: (standing left to right): Harry Ridge, Nathan Alexander, Connor Cunningham, Daniel Osarigie, Daniel O'Sullivan, Jamie Marshall.
Kneeling (left to right): Sam Owen, Cael Chamberlain (c), Kasari Mehta, Fin Mullens and Connor Fabian.

Cathedral School Sevens

THE Brynteg Senior Rugby Sevens squad travelled to Cathedral School Sevens to compete in their first annual Sevens competition.

The afternoon provided the perfect preparation for Rosslyn Park and also allowed the chance for some Year-11 talent to gain some valuable experience on the Welsh Sevens circuit.

Brynteg played three games in total, having to settle for a draw against a much fancied Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni outfit. They defeated the competitive hosts Cathedral School in game two and were convincing winners against Rougemont School in game three.

The Brynteg side's superior points difference meant they were named tournament winners. Brynteg were led by captain Lewis Brennan, who set the tone for the day with some fantastic touches.

Rugby stars learn a brand new game

Left to right, Wayne Evans, John Hastings and Aled Brew.

TWO young stars of Welsh rugby have been finding out how tough the game of golf is at St Andrew's Major Golf Club.

Welsh international Aled Brew of the Newport Gwent Dragons and Wayne Evans formally of the same club but now playing for Coventry RFC, have been taking a series of lessons from the club's PGA professional, John Hastings.

They have quickly realised that the physical strength which is so important for top class rugby is not of great value for golf – if they have not mastered the finer aspects of a game which places a premium on co-ordination, relaxation and timing.

Wayne said: "I started having lessons off John about two years ago and learnt from him that the effort I was putting into trying to smash the ball vast distances was counter-productive.

"Now, both Aled and myself have seen a big improvement in our games due to John's coaching, with the emphasis on learning to strike the ball better but not harder, which I think all rugby players are guilty of. Although we don't always put into practice what he is teaching, we are beginning to enjoy our golf a lot more.

"We really enjoy the relaxed atmosphere at St Andrew's with the driving range and nine hole course, which only takes a couple of hours to play, suiting us perfectly.

"It's been said that rugby is physically probably the toughest of all games to play but golf has to be the toughest mentally," said John, who has British Lions Tom Shanklin, Geoff Evans and former Wales coach Alan Davies among his pupils.

Contact details for St Andrews GC are: secretary Lesley Thomas on 01446 722227 or John Hastings on 07761137265.

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Scorpions' errors gift the Skolars easy win

South Wales Scorpions 12 – London Skolars 30
by Ian Golden

SOUTH Wales Scorpions gifted London Skolars their first win of the season after a number of errors led directly to tries in Mountain Ash on Sunday.

The capital side won 30-12 for their first victory under new coach Jermaine Coleman but the Scorpions, who fought well for most of the game, should have had more.

The home side took the lead on eight minutes. After winning a penalty, a good passing move saw Ian Newbury score in the corner. Paul Emanuelli converted.

Then came two dreadful tries that shouldn't have been conceded.

Skolars levelled on 20 minutes after James Anthony picked up a loose ball and ran over half the length of the field. Tommy Connick converted.

Another error led to their second try after Connick took advantage of a spilled ball to easily run 20 metres to score. Will Fairhurst took over the goal kicking duties for the rest of the game and converted that one.

The home side did level after winning a penalty. A good set of six culminated in Jordan Sheridan weaving his way through the Skolars' back-line.

But London hit back straight away as Connick was allowed to waltz through the Scorpions' defence. Fairhurst goaled to make it 18-12 at the break.

Scorpions failed to take advantage of a repeat set at the start of the second half and it was Skolars who extended their lead in the 53rd minute when Olly Bloom went over from close range. Fairhurst goaled to bring the score up to 24-12.

Bloom could have had another soon after but was held up on the final tackle of a set.

Scorpions were unlucky when Newbury shrugged off two defenders to ground but it was chalked off for a forward pass. Then Curtis Davies kicked too far for Newbury to catch on the wing.

The game was sealed with seven minutes to go when a high bomb was dropped in front of the line and Harvey Bennett took advantage for the easiest try he'd ever score. Fairhurst completed his 100 per cent record with the boot.

Even after winning a penalty 10 metres out, the Scorpions couldn't get a consolation try as the ball was coughed up.

SOUTH WALES SCORPIONS: Jordan Sheridan, Ian Newbury, Paul Edwards, Kyle Scrivens, Yannic Parker, Curtis Davies, Paul Emanuelli, Osian Phillips, Connor Farrer, Morgan Evans, Bradley Hill, Mike Connor, Neil Dallimore. Substitutes: Zak Williams, Anthony Symons, Rhys Davies, Dafydd Hellard.

Barry Chess Club at the Welsh Championships

THE Welsh Chess Championships took place last weekend. These matches involved seven rounds of play spread over four days.

As usual Barry Chess Club had players taking part in all three sections of the tournament.

In the Open Section there were a total of 32 entries but only one Barry Chess Club player. Nigel Ralphs picked up four points from his six games to finish 13th on tie break. His best result came in round six, when he earned a draw against FM Sven Zeigler. At the end of the tournament, Nigel had gained a total of 27 ratings points to give him a current rating of 2043.

In the Major Section, two of the 46 entries came from our club. I am not sure why but both Sam White and Ken Hannah received three byes and took part in only four rounds of play.

Ken picked up 1.5 points and has now dropped to a rating just below 1700 and this must be his lowest rating for a number of years.

Sam fared a little better, picking up two points. As both players received three byes, their final positions bear little respect for their abilities, as everyone else recorded more results.

Ken and Sam both found themselves too close to the bottom of the table for comfort.

In the Minor Section there were only 26 entries but relative newcomers, Stephen Bonutto and Pagona Mavroyenneas of the Barry Chess Club both took part.

Both players ended with a score of 3 from the 7 rounds of play. Stephen beat Pagona in the middle round and ended in 13th place with Pagona on a respectable 17th place on tie break.

There were only two players ranked below Pagona so she outperformed her rating, gaining 36 rating points in the process.

Her results included draws with Mike McLoughlin, some 350 points higher in the rating system and also a draw with Emily Wang of North Cardiff.

In their previous encounter, Emily was victorious so again this shows how rapidly Pagona is improving.

There was also a division four league game for the Gambits. We travelled to Pontypridd to take on the Pontypridd Thirds.

With a win and two draws we lost by a narrow margin of 3-2 which is our best result for some time.

It could have been more because young Jason Grice was winning his match and at the crucial moment had a decision to make – one option was a clear win and the other was losing – unfortunately Jason took the wrong move and subsequently lost.

The Gambits are on a losing run of eight games and have one more chance to earn their first victory of 2015 when they take on the Rhondda Hurricanes in the final match of the season shortly.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival. For more details visit our website at *barrychessclub.yolasite.com*.

PHIL JONES, club secretary

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Evan in a 39-1 Ffos Las double

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams landed a 39-1 double at Ffos Las on Sunday.

Evan, who is the leading trainer at Ffos Las, brought his total number of wins at the racecourse to 58 when his eight-year-old *Oscar Sunset,* won the Totepool Handicap Hurdle and his seven-year-old *Mac Le Couteau* took the Toteexacta Handicap Chase.

The former, a 7-1 chance, was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney and scored by two lengths from Lewis. The latter, which went off at odds of 4-1, was partnered by Adam Wedge and won by a neck from the favourite *Charming Lad*.

Brian Lee

Cottrell Park ladies present winter prizes

The nuns' choir from Sister Act.

Lady captain Helen Poole (left) presents Helen Evans, the winter league winner, with her trophy.

Lorraine Pointon-Bell, Winter eclectic winner.

THE ladies of Cottrell Park Golf club celebrated Easter with a 12-hole 'Spring Waltz' competition on a beautiful sunny day.

This was won by Tina Morgan, Chris Impey and Maureen Bowen with 50 points, and second were Lorraine Pointon-Bell, Helen Evans and Jenny Whiting.

A total of 60 ladies sat down to a delicious lunch, and prior to this Helen Evans was presented with the Winter league trophy and Lorraine Pointon-Bell the Winter Eclectic trophy.

Following lunch, Chris Impey entertained the ladies by reciting two very witty poems.

The ladies' committee, dressed in nuns' habits, sang 'I Will Follow Him' from *Sister Act*, with much hilarity. The entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all.

A very enjoyable day was organised by ladies' captain Helen Poole with the support of the committee. She thanked Angela Padfield for providing the lovely table flowers.

CB

Strong local showing in Duncan Putter

CELTIC Manor's Josh Davies claimed the best win of his career by winning the Duncan Putter at Southerndown Golf Club, leading the way in a strong Welsh showing at the event.

Four of the top eight players were from Wales, with Conwy's Evan Griffith in fifth, Llanwern's Owen Edwards and Southerndown's Llewellyn Matthews tied in sixth place.

Davies was one of only two players to break 70 on the challenging links course, his second round 69 laying the platform for victory in tricky conditions. Jamie Bower of Meltham, who finished tied fifth, was the only other player to register a 69.

Irishman Conor O'Rourke was one shot behind, while English pair Jonathan Thomson and Jimmy Mullen were two shots further back in joint third.

Davies, aged 18, is a former winner of the Golf Union of Wales Hugh James Boys' Order of Merit and the Principality Junior Wales Open and has represented Wales through the age grades, but this was his best senior win – following fellow Welsh teenager Tim Harry, who won the Duncan Putter two years ago.

"It was great to see Josh winning the Duncan Putter, but in some ways it was just as encouraging to see the number of Welsh players who were challenging at the top end of the leaderboard," said Golf Union of Wales director of performance Ben Waterhouse.

"The Duncan Putter always attracts a strong entry of the best amateur players from around the UK and Ireland, so such a strong home performance has got to be good."

Golf day for KPC charity

KPC Youth and Community are holding their annual charity golf day on Friday, June 19, at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl.

Entry for teams of four is just £140 if booked before April 30, then £160 per team. Entry includes coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet meal following the round of golf.

Sponsorship is also sought for raffle/auction prizes or £50 to sponsor a hole – if you can support us that would be really appreciated.

For team entry forms/more details contact Alison on 01656 749219; kpcyouth@hotmail.com

Alison Mawby
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GREAT DEFENSIVE EFFORT FROM COWBRIDGE IN LOCAL DERBY

LAST Saturday Cowbridge travelled to near neighbours Llantwit and in an absorbing battle lost 20-3.

There was an emotional start as both teams and supporters stood in silent tribute to Berwyn Griffiths. Berwyn in fact played for both clubs and was courageous in life and in adversity.

The weather was sunny but there was a definite chill in the air. Both teams played and hard and fair and the first score went to Cowbridge, a superb 50-metre penalty kick with the wind from centre Tom Sterling.

Just before the 30-minute mark, Llantwit laid siege to the Cowbridge line with scrum after scrum, requiring heroic defence with every Cowbridge player putting the hits in.

The penalty count was very heavily in Llantwit's favour and so scrums were reset. After eight minutes of trying, Llantwit decided to take the three points on offer. Great credit to the 3 'Ps' in the front row Phillips, Price and Popham.

Time and again flankers Connor Boys and Rhod Walker put tackles in and then got over the ball to try to steal it back. Second rows Emyr Stone and captain Matt Wright provided plenty of shove, with no 8 Rhys Jones locking the scrum and each played their part in the defensive effort. Half time 3-3.

The second half was going to be tough playing up hill and after only three minutes Llantwit's centre brought his full back in on the inside and he went over for a well-worked converted try.

Two injuries saw full back Tom Larkin and prop Dai Popham going off, with veteran Alan John coming on. Another injury saw prop Jon Phillips forced off and so it was passive scrums. As a tactical swap Alun John came off and Geraint Thomas on.

On 22 minutes, although Cowbridge linesman 'honest Bob' saw the play as a dead ball, the referee gave a lineout very close to Cowbridge's line and Llantwit's flanker drove over.

Llantwit's impressive centre Matt Roberts crossed for a try of his own 10 minutes later and then Cowbridge lost two men to yellow cards to add to their problems.

They continued to battle and now remarkably, with eight minutes left, went onto the offensive with great runs by long-serving outside half Huw Lougher and two superb efforts by scrum half Richie Howson, with the second linking backup to Stone who was brought down just short of the line. Final score 20-3.

Llantwit deserved their win and had excellent players in their No 6 and full back and captain Marcus Pearce, but flanker Connor Boys must have broken records for his tackle count and Richie Howson was absolutely outstanding in attack and defence

It was a pity that Cowbridge did not get many opportunities to launch their dangerous backs – Will Williams in the centre and the pacy Harri Thomas on the wing – but it was a great team effort.

Credit to coaches Leigh and Dan for their positive approach and encouragement to the players.

This Saturday Cowbridge have a crucial home game against St Albans. Kick off is 2.30pm with all support most welcome for this and the BD Youth home game against Llandaff North .

RV/RK

Former Llantwit Major captains gathered at the club, and (right) the two captains on the day with a copy of the programme from the very first match.

COWBRIDGE UNDER-14S TURN IN A STYLISH PERFORMACE

AFTER a two-week break for Easter, Cowbridge under-14s continued their impressive season with a comprehensive 43-5 victory away against Pontypool Utd.

Playing against a very strong wind in the first half the boys kept the ball close and used their skills to keep Pontypool camped in their own half for most of the opening stages.

The game's first try came after some scrambled Ponty defence was awarded with a scrum five metres from their own line. Ioan Williams scored his first try of the season when he pounced on the loose ball from the scrum. Williams converted his own try. Pontypool Utd 0, Cowbridge 7.

Cowbridge returned to the Pontypool 22 with some crisp handling by their backs. Cowbridge were awarded a penalty right under the posts, Pontypool not having released the tackler, but instead of taking an easy three points, Williams tapped the ball and with two simple quick passes R Allin scored in the far left corner.

Cowbridge were dominant in possession, but with a resilient and much bigger pack the Pontypool defence was hard to break down.

Cowbridge's last try of the first half came following some excellent recycling by the forwards. Following a number of phases of play, which moved the Pontypool defence from one side of the pitch to another, Cowbridge finally created some space. E Thomas, the Cowbridge fly-half made a half-break, off loaded to B Langdon-Cryer who found J Dixon, playing blindside flanker for an easy run-in.

I Williams converted; Pontypool Utd 0,Cowbridge 19.

Ponty never let their heads drop and came back strongly at Cowbridge to score their first try of the game. Following a scrum just inside the Cowbridge 22, Ponty ran hard at the Cowbridge midfield.

Some brave and excellent tackling by B Langdon-Cryer stopped the first attack, however a couple of missed tackles then allowed Ponty to score out wide.

At half time, the score was Pontypool Utd 5, Cowbridge 19.

Cowbridge scored all the points in the second half but it was far from easy.

Time and time again L Connor and H Bluck made some great hard runs into the Ponty defence sucking the energy out of their opponents.

The first try of the second half came from a great turnover by Iestyn Fenn. Some simple passing by the backs put Harry Ridge clear to run under the posts untouched. I Williams converted.

Dixon then scored his second try of the game following a good team move. B Jones, the Cowbridge open-side flanker, made a great run, after finding himself lurking at inside centre. Jones off-loaded to H Ridge, who in turn put Dixon clear. Pontypool Utd 5, Cowbridge 31.

With the game won, Ponty did not give up and came back hard at Cowbridge. Ponty camped themselves inside the Cowbridge 22 for the next ten minutes. However, an incredibly brave tackle by Lewis Hawke knocked the ball out of the Ponty number 8's hands while he was over the line, thwarting an obvious try.

With the game entering its final stages, Cowbridge scored two late tries. The first came from a clearing kick by Ponty. Iwan Price-Thomas gathered the bouncing ball and with three brilliant side steps off his left he was clear and scored under the posts. I Williams converted.

The final try of the game was probably the best team try. E Thomas dropped the ball out from his own 22. R Allin gathered the ball, off-loaded to Jones who in turn off-loaded to Langdon-Cryer. Langdon-Cryer made a subtle side-step and off-loaded to R. Williams to power himself over the line, for a length of field team try.

Final score : Pontypool Utd 5, Cowbridge 43.

GJ

Cowbridge under-11s remain on fine form

COWBRIDGE under-11s entertained Pencoed at the police fields in what proved to be a one-sided game.

Although bigger upfront, the visitors found the home backs difficult to contain as the Cowbridge back division ran in all of the home side's 10 tries.

With their good handling skills, Cowbridge worked some of their dangerous runners into space with devastating effect. The first to cross was right winger Iolo Davies, who squeezed in at the corner after the ball travelled through the entire backline.

Left winger Finlay Sullivan added his name to the scoresheet as an overlap was worked on the left which was finished off with ease.

Inside centre Akka Guwy broke through and finished off well to add the home side's third try. All of these tries were converted by outside half Harry Treharne.

Cowbridge completed their first half scoring as outside centre Ruben Davies scored one of his typical tries, using his pace and elusiveness to outstrip the covering defence to touch down, although the conversion was missed.

To their credit, Pencoed ended the half on a high with a close-range try which was converted, leaving the half time score 26-7.

With a few half-time changes made, Cowbridge came out and were caught cold as Pencoed scored an early unconverted second half try to close the gap. However, normal service was resumed as Cowbridge built an impressive score when the visitors slipped off more and more tackles.

Ruben Davies scored an excellent hat-trick, with replacement winger Finlay Brace living up to his name scoring a brace of tries, and Finlay Sullivan adding his second.

With four of the six second half tries converted, Cowbridge ended the match convincing winners by 64-12.

The fact that five tries were scored by wingers and five by the centres shows both the philosophy and strength of the under-11s, who at times can play some gorgeous running rugby.

Although against a much bigger pack, it should be noted that the forwards performed well to supply the amount of ball that enable them to score the tries.

Match day squad: Alfie Rees, Iolo Davies, Ethan Francis, Archie Lloyd, Ifor Rees, Lewys Robins, Akka Guwy, Sebastian Johns-Powell, Rhys Ford, Will Ryan, Ruben Davies, Finlay Sullivan, Robbie Brown, Ollie Jones, Finlay Brace, Steffan Evans, Ben Hardy, Will Harris and Harry Treharne. **MF**

FLYING START TO SEASON FOR THE COWBRIDGE BOWLERS

WE are now in our third week of the season while other clubs are just starting – this is the advantage we have over grass greens.

On Sunday last, our carpet green met with the approval of a Welsh international who came for a practice session. He is due to play on a similar surface in Jersey.

The club's first competitive game, a mixed friendly against Penarth, took place this week with all six rinks occupied. The result will be in next week's GEM.

Cowbridge Bowling Club is keen to encourage and attract people after they have played other sports such as rugby, soccer, hockey, netball etc.

Those who have a proven record of enjoying sport and playing in a team might like to see what we can offer.

Free 'taster sessions' are available on Sunday afternoon, April 19 and 26 and on May 3.

Why not give the game try? Ring Michael Bradley on 01446 773289 to fix a time. You can find additional information about the club on our website *cowbridgebowlingclub.co.uk*.

MB

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday, April 7, there were no matches because of the scheduled Easter break.

Next week, April 21, the last full league programme of matches for the 2014-2015 will be played. However before the season concludes on finals night, which this year will be held at the Llanharry Workings Men's Club on Saturday May 30, there are a number of knock-out competition matches still to be played.

Present league standings after 19 matches, are: Llanharry (140 points), Edmondes B and Highwayman Inn (102), Edmondes A (94), Hare and Hounds (79), Farmer's Arms (68), Edmondes C (62) and Old Post Ladies (35).

On April 21, the league matches scheduled concludes when the Edmondes C hosts the Highwayman Inn, the Edmondes B hosts the Old Post Ladies, the Hare and Hounds hosts the Edmondes A and the Farmers Arms hosts Llanharry.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT